Squat?

She simply grabbed the axe and banged away

Why Not!

Inside: unorthodox house repairs, art of scamming, qik compost, the legal bits, local & international stories the brown warehouse, how to build a yert & much more...

Plagiarism®

Some handy sources of information I used

THE TIME IS RIPE

Opening Doors, 1984
Squatters Union of Victoria

Squatters Handbook, 1993
Squatters Information Network

Squatting; The Real Story, 1980
Bay Leaf Books

UK Squatters Handbook, no's 7&10
Advisory Service for Squatters

Woozy no.2 "Squatting
Woozy no.19 "Squatting in Amsterdam"
Woozy no's 7,8,12,17.

Survival Without Rent
www.nativ.com/-blackout/howtosquat

Unreal Estate
Squatters Handbook Online
www.cat.org.au/housing/book

MOST OF THESE and MANY MORE TITLES AVAILABLE @ BARRICADE BOOKS / INFO SHOP/LIBRARY.

DIY/Land Use Resources

Hard Times Handbook, 1984
Irene and Keith Smith

Self Help House Repairs Manual, revised 1980
Andrew Ingham

Ideal Home survival edition
Suspect/Hooligan

Land and Liberty, 1994
G. Burnett

The Art of Scamming

The Best of Abbie Hoffman, 1989
Edited by Daniel Simon with Abbie Hoffman
Four Walls Eight Windows, New York.

www.vintagevinyl.com/steal/

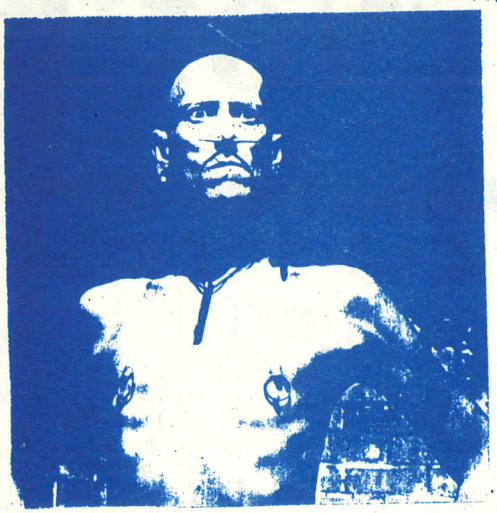
In Ya Face no.1 "A Short History Of Squatting in Greece"

In Ya Face no.3 "Squatting and the Barcelona @ Movement"

It's not just you scamming, mate

The Starvation Army
Squat It no.15 "Charity in Chains"

pROPerty iS theft®



Any so called new idea is just an old one applied to a new situation. This is true for all fields of human knowledge. It has been taged by many names such as recycling, collage or pastiche. But why not call a spade a spade, plagiarism is plagiarism. It is taking something and making it relevent to your own life.

Plagiarism is the conscious manipulation of pre-existing elements in the creation of 'aesthetic' works. Plagiarism is inherent in all 'artistic' activity, since both pictorial and literal 'arts' function with an inherited language, even when their practioners aim at overthrowing this recieved syntax (as happened with modernism and post-modernism).

you mean to tell me some parts of this publication have been taken from other works without regard to copyright infringements!!

Why squat?

Fact is... you're already squatting! Who gave you permission to live where you live right now? Someone who had permission from someone else because they gave them money, who had permission from someone else because they had been given some money, by someone else who had money... yeah, nice one!

If you live in Australia, the land you live on was claimed by right of Terra nullius. This means the colonial forces that invaded denied the very existence of indigenous ppl, staked a claim for the mother country and set about trying to murder every last aboriginal so their claim had some basis.

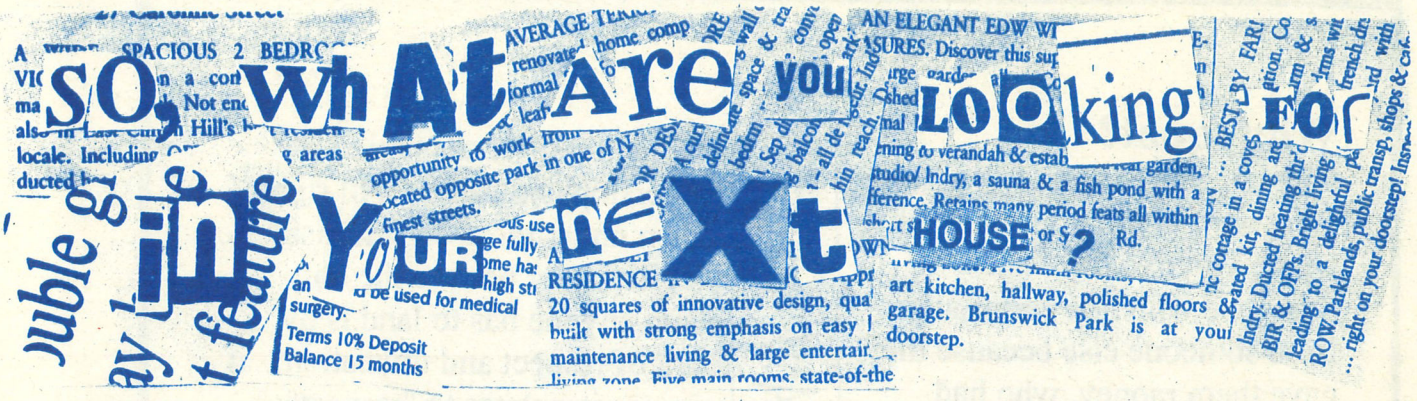
MANA WHENUA

The land transcends notions of ownership and capital. All rights stolen under racist imperialism are illegitimate. I believe the only claim anyone has to land is by right of respect and utilisation... if you use it (relates to "respect": I would rather it was used for 'good'), then you can borrow it from the rest of us. If you're not using it, someone else can and in the mean time don't mess it up for whoever comes after you.

This fits nicely into the squatting ethic, doesn't it?... rich owner with two or three houses and doesn't need them all, maybe I'll just take one for me and my chums to live in... fix it up, settle in, grow veggie's, etc.

Ooo, sounds incredibly anarchist doesn't it... so, why do *you* think you should squat?

photo: Cilla Pryor, 1982
Commonwealth Games Protest.
Brisbane, Australia.

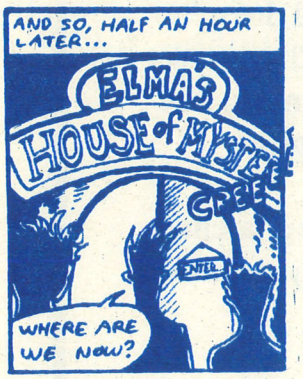


Good People

I think organising a group of ppl before you move into a place can save you a lot of work and hassle. Looking for a place together can be a grand adventure (unless your under pressure to get out of your old one), and with several ppl, you can obviously divide the suburbs up between you. If you are planning to squat alone, you get the benefits of not having to deal with anyone else's shit and the added bonus of doing all the work. Living with ppl is a huge challenge, especially if you're the types who work without dictatorship. Find a way to resolve conflict and maintain communication. Set out how you want to work and agree on some basics.

The first house you look at probably won't be the one... in fact, like the poor princess and her frogs, you're going to have to kiss a lot of empties before you... um, hang on.

Long grass and broken windows



As you cruise the burbs, searching for your next abode, remember that you're looking for a place that has been abandoned, forgotten about. These are harder and harder to find among the townhouses and apartments, but they *are* there! Several theories abound about when to go in and have a look. I like a daylight approach initially because it seems less dodgy if anyone spots me. If anyone does come by, have a story ready. You can start by knocking on the door and making sure no one is home, checking the meters to see if they're running (running meters don't always mean the place is occupied though). Scout out an open window, or open one yourself If you're not in a hurry, keep an eye on the place over a period of time. Sometimes a place will be unoccupied, but the owner/s come by to check up on it every now and then.

If you do go in to have a look take a torch and maybe pen and paper if you need to make notes.

Hopefully, you can find a place that's structurally sound. Check the roof first, if it's got gaping holes in it, everything else is going to rot. Check for rotten, burnt or missing joists (timbers that support the roof and floors). Any leaky asbestos? Check the pipes and general plumbing (Does the toilet flush? What colour is the water coming out of the taps?), wall sockets and wiring, the fuse box (are there any fuses?) Think about how much work might be involved in making it livable and whether or not you're up for it.

Disinterested owners.

Find out who owns it by asking the neighbours, checking the mail or going to the Land Titles Office (283 Queens St, Melbourne). Who owns it may determine how you proceed from here. Deceased estates don't really belong to anyone. They're being looked after by public trustees until a relative or private trustee can be found. The trustees aren't likely to evict you unless they find out your there... so, don't tell them. Govt properties (not so prolific as the pre-Kennet days) can be forgotten about for ages, but some departments have policies on evicting squatters eg. MOH, Defence, so equally, your stay could be pretty short.

Often, a privately owned house makes it easier to negotiate staying and maybe paying (a nominal) rent, or keeping it tidy and vandal-free. Whether or not you want to pay them money is up to you. You may feel more inclined to maintain your squatting cred' and move on to the next empty.

Also, when, or if, to approach the owner (if there is one) is up to you. If they don't know you're there, you may blow it by announcing yourself. Equally, bowling on up with a list of all the great things you're doing about the place may impress them. Keeping a record of the work you do, gives you a strong bargaining chip, but it still may not mean you get to stay.

Who knows? Personally, I go for the wait-and-see approach.

Critical Mass

LAST FRIDAY EVERY MONTH

5:30 pm Outside the State Library, Swanston St

An organised coincidence where hundreds of cyclists and rollerbladers happen to ride in the same direction, at the same time, through peak hour traffic.

i wish I had a cool bike like hers...

GETTING IN AND SECURING YOUR SQUAT.

On opening your squat, bring along new barrels for locks, slide bolts, torch or candles, hammer, screwdriver, etc. If you can not get into the house easily, crowbars or smaller jemmies are VERY useful items but hard to hide whilst carrying.

You can usually save yourself a lot of trouble by finding an easier way into the house. Try the obvious ways first - doors, widows, skylights, etc., they are often unlocked. Louvre (slat) windows, in most cases can be easily pulled out of there frames. Old style windows with rotating catches can often be opened by slipping the latches with knife. Some newer type sliding windows can be pulled out of their frames; try pushing the window up in it's frame. If all else fails you may be forced to break a window or door, be sure to repair it and clean up afterwards. NEVER admit to having broken anything or you may be charged with breaking and entering. If you have to make much noise it may be wise to go away and return when the coast is clear.

As a last resort you could consider going through the roof by removing tiles and entering through the ceiling hatch. If there is more than one of you have someone as a lookout whilst getting in.

Once in, change all the locks you can. Any doors that you cannot change the locks on, either nail them up or put bolts on them. This applies to windows as well.

As a general rule it would be best to always have someone in the house for the first week or two of squatting it and to make sure it is locked at all times after that. It is important that the house is secure and that the only people who can get in and out are you and your friends.

RESISTING EVICTION.

So, you've been given an eviction notice and you want to stay there, this will fill you in on how to Resist Eviction. There are three things you can do, you might choose one or more of these methods.

1; Approaching the media; Contacting the media will inform the public about your situation and squatting in general. Through this, you might gain public support and the owner might reconsider evicting you or giving you more time. It is important to trust the media people who you have contacted, as you don't want them to distort the story. You might try to contact public and commercial radio, current affair and other television shows, local and other newspapers.

2; Community support; This is when you lias with community groups and neighbours to inform them of your situation and gain their support. It can be helpful to start this as soon as you move in, as you can be on good grounds when it comes to eviction time. You can visit neighbours or leaflet letter boxes. Contact housing groups, welfare groups, councillors, and other community groups. Their support can be shown in a letter or phone call to the owner(s) or local newspapers. You might ask them to sign a petition or to personally turn up on the day of the eviction.

3; Physically Resisting; It's eviction day and the arsehole owner still wants you out. Feel pissed off, angry, frustrated? Them maybe you should physically resist. This is common practice in many squats overseas, which have large squatting movements. Sadly, in Australia, often you will get thrown out, even after trying to resist. This is a way of releasing your frustration and anger, and not giving up without a fight. It's also fun to piss of the police and landlord and give them a hard time, which might give you a warm inner glow.

What to do; Barricade yourselves inside, so it's impossible for anyone to get in. You may want to have a selection of things to throw at the evictors, such as; water bombs, flower bombs, rotten food, molotov cocktails and rocks. Also, if you store your old excrement somewhere safe, this can make an effective deterrent when thrown at or dropped on a potential evictor. These actions may result in arrest so be prepared and try not to get caught. Good luck!

squatters info. network handbook 1993.

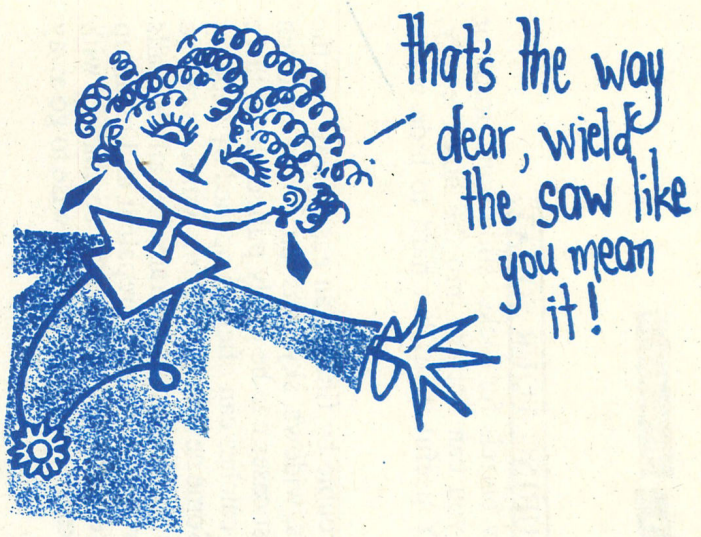
SHE'LL BE RIGHT, MATE.

UNORTHODOX HOUSE REPAIRS

Most of the maintence we do on squats is limited and temporary. With no long term security, squatters don't tend to rebuild walls, reroof or put up pagodas. Then again nor do tenants and unlike them you will be keeping your rent money and have no landlord to try and get to come round and do it. That it is temporary doesn't mean it has be a blutack job: with a few basic tools we can fix a place up to a good living standard.

All the below information is from a squatter who has given all this patching up stuff a go. To get a well written and illustrated approach from experts then the library has D.I.Y and Home Maintanence books under 643.7 and gardening/compost under 635.099. These will really give you the gen you need.

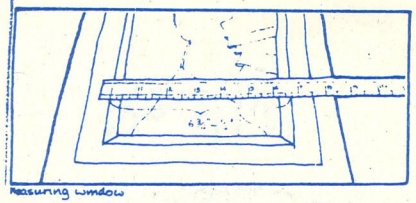
To start then you will need:
1. a couple of D.I.Y. home repairs books
2. Tools. Including: hammer, flat and phillips head screwdrivers, hacksaw blade and handle, chisel, kitchen knife (free and bodgy putty knife and general lever). Being a typical squatter, you will already be swinging that crowbar !!
3. Material: keep an eye out for nails, wood screws, putty, locks, taps, bits of wood sheets, beading, bolts, plasterboard, etc.....In the end money will have to spent on stuff -especially locks and electrical.
4. The right attitude. Be confident, no one is born knowing how to use a hammer, you can do whatever you want to your new place, and if your looking for a decent living standard, you'll have to do it. I am still an amateur, but did do all the stuff below. I used squatting to have a go at doing places up that no landlord (or parent) would let me do. So everything you attempt will be worth it, even after you leave that place behind.

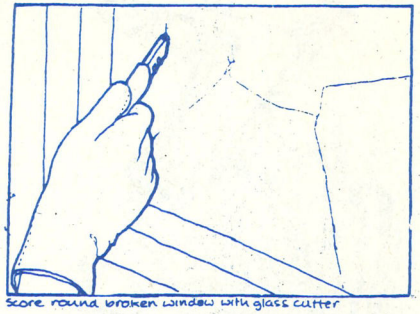


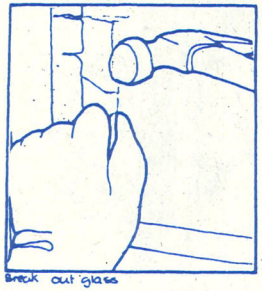
Windows:

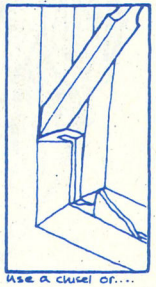
A lot of emptys have broken windows.
The easiest thing to do is put up a thick clear plastic (double folded for insulation), held on by long pieces of wood nailed into the frame.
More expensive to buy is plexiglass, this can be cut to size (a hacksaw blade in one of those little black plastic handle that fit on the end is cheapest), and fitted in as glass. To d this remove all broken glass from wooden frame, then gentl prise off the beading that held the old glass in on three of the four sides . slide glass in and nail beading back on. If it was putty not beading holding the glass in, then scrape out old putty and use new.
The last way is, of course, to replace with glass, the most expensive, and best for long term places. Any local glass shop will cut you a peice of glass to size. 3mm in standard window glass thickness. Remember to get it cut 2/3mm too small, as if its too small the beading will cover the gap, but too big is a real hassle.
People do use boards, or cardbord, (both can be nailed on with small nails or tacks) both of which let in no light, whicl may or may not be the feel you want.
Note that both cardboard and plastic sheeting give little security, and is a quick fix job (eg while you see if its gonna last)

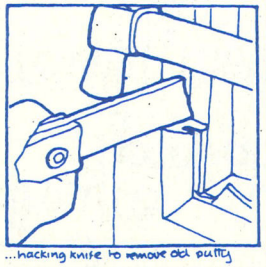
3.12.00 GLAZING

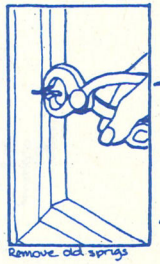

Measuring window

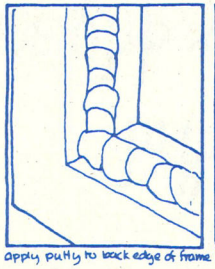

Score round broken window with glass cutter

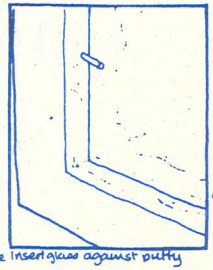

Break out glass


Use a chisel or....


...hacking knife to remove old putty


Remove old sprigs

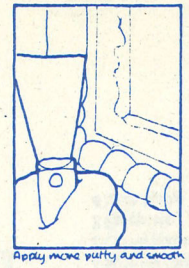

Apply putty to back edge of frame

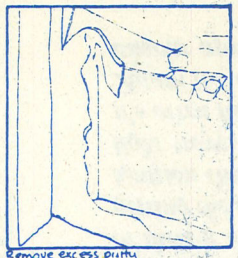

Insert glass against putty

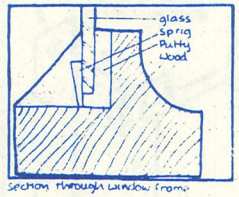
3.12.01 Be as accurate as you can in measuring the size of windows. If the panes are too small you won't be able to fit them, if too large, they will not fit in, or only so tightly that expansion and contraction are not allowed for. Measure it from the side edge of the putty on one side to the outside edge on the other (i.e. include the thickness of the putty) and subtract $\frac{1}{4}$" (5mm) from this overall size.

3.12.02 Remove the broken glass, wear gloves and work from the top down - if you have a glass cutter score round the edge of the glass first. With a hammer and old-wood chisel or hacking knife, clear away the old putty down to the wood on both faces of the frame. Take care not to dig into the wood and watch out for tacks (sprigs) buried in the putty. Test the fit of the new pane (it can be trimmed down with a glass cutter if too big). There are two types of putty, one for wood and one for metal window frames. Apply it in blobs along the back face of the frame. Don't try to smooth it down, keep it in fairly regular ridges. Rest the bottom edge of the glass along the bottom edge of the frame and push it into position (don't press in the centre) squeezing it out at the back. Use a gentle even pressure, applied all the way round the edge of the glass. Hammer in a small tack halfway up each side of the frame to hold the glass in place. Apply putty around the four sides of the frame, building up a triangular wedge, smooth this down with a scraper blade.

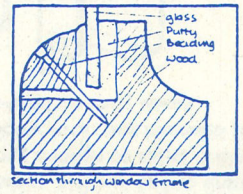
self help house repairs manual
andrew ingham


Apply more putty and smooth

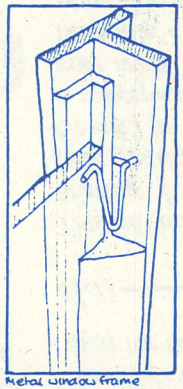

Remove excess putty

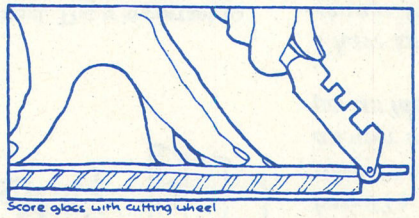


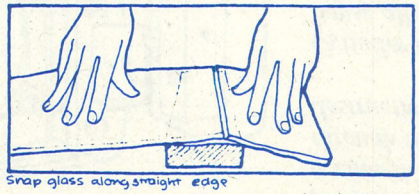
Section through window frame

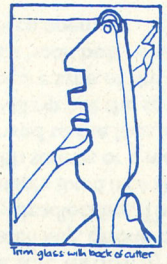


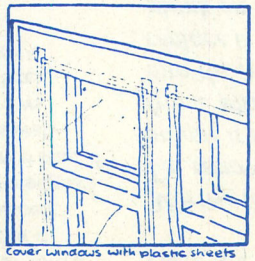
Section through window frame


Metal window frame


Score glass with cutting wheel


Snap glass along straight edge


Trim glass with back of cutter


Cover windows with plastic sheets

3.12.03 Instead of putty, a piece of $\frac{1}{4}$" (5mm) round beading can be tacked on the four sides of the frame. First set the glass in the putty as above, apply a thin strip of putty into the angle between glass and frame, press the beading into this and nail.

3.12.04 Try to repair windows when it is warm; on cold days glass is more brittle and will break more easily. Sheet glass comes in 24 and 32 ounce weight and $\frac{1}{4}$" plate (3mm, 4mm and 6mm metric); as a general rule, 24 ounce (3mm) glass is used in windows whose combined width and length is less than 60 - 80" (1700mm); for 80" and more 32 ounce (4mm) is used. Quarter-inch plate (6mm) is used for shop size windows. Reinforced glass and various types of frosted glass are available - take a broken piece if you want a match.

3.12.05 Using a glass-cutter -
Single wheel glass-cutter: Use a straight edge to score along, use a firm pressure and start and finish the score to the edges. Place the glass over a straight batten with one edge in line with the score, hold down one side of the glass and apply pressure on the other. other until the pane snaps. Use the notches in the back of the cutter or pliers to break off smaller bits (after scoring a line).

3.12.06 Heat loss -
Most heat loss from a room is through the windows. This can be reduced greatly by taping a sheet of clear plastic over the window on the frame. The air caught between the window and the plastic acts as an insulator. Plastic can also act as glass where the house is of such short-life or money is so scarce a- to make buying glass uneconom..

Go on! Talk to the neighbours. They're probably really nice.

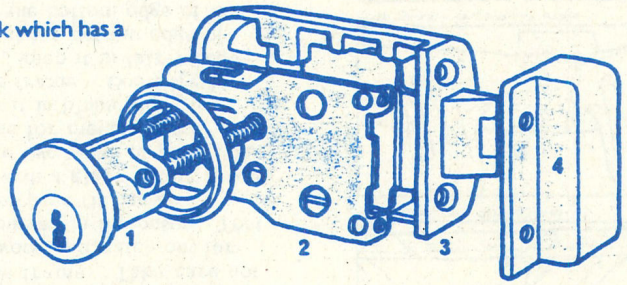
Really.

How a cylinder rim lock works

A cylinder rim lock is usually used on final exit doors as an alternative to a mortise lock (or as an addition for extra security): it fits on the inner face of the door and shoots a bolt into a plate fixed to the face or into the edge of the frame. A rim lock automatically holds the door closed when it is pulled shut, can be opened from inside by a knob, but needs a key so it can be opened from outside.

Choose a rim lock which has a deadlockable bolt, thrown by an extra turn of the latch key, or one that is automatically deadlocking. The best type has its staple fixed into the edge of the frame with screws or a metal stud: if it's only screwed to the face, a well-placed kick will rip out the screws.

A more secure type of rim latch incorporates a hook bolt, which is difficult to force open.



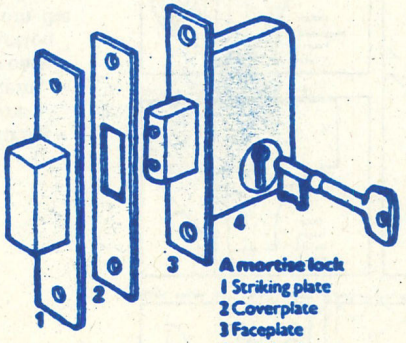
A cylinder lock
1 Cylinder
2 Mounting plate
3 Lock body
4 Staple

How a mortise lock works

A mortise lock is fitted into a slot cut in the edge of the door, where it cannot easily be tampered with. There are various patterns to suit the width of the door stile (which should be a minimum of 45mm (1¾in) thick—the standard for exterior quality doors) and the location of the door: a two-bolt mortise is suitable for back and side doors. It has a handle or knob on each side, to operate a springbolt, and a key-operated deadbolt which can't be pushed back once the door is closed.

Purely key-operated mortise locks and cylinder mortise locks are best for final exit doors, where no handle is necessary. It's best to use one in tandem with a rim latch.

Choose a lock that has a large number of key variations and a deadbolt of hardened steel. This is important to protect it against 'picking' and to ensure that it is strong enough to resist drilling or forcing. Some locks are intended for right- or left-hand opening doors.



A mortise lock
1 Striking plate
2 Coverplate
3 Faceplate
4 Lock body

Locks

There are two types of locks used: mortise and cylinder rim.

Mortise locks are put in a slot cut into the edge of the door. To remove: open door and unscrew lock. If the door is shut on one it is often easiest to cut a section out of the door frame with a hammer and chisel around where the lock goes into the frame. the door will open. Then. take out lock and replace it with another (if you want) or chuck it. and nail a plank on the door frame to give it back its strength. If there is enough room between door and frame. then you can cut through the bolt whilst it is shot home. a little effort but less destructive.

Cylinder rim locks are easier to remove as from inside the house all the screws face you. So you unscrew it. remove the barrel (or cylinder) and replace it with another ($15). Some times in taking off the lock you break it and have to buy another back. take the one you removed to the locksmith to get an identical one.

I have known places that found the back door lock easy to change. but not the front. so they put a couple of bolts on the inside of the front door so noone could get in and only used the back door.

Gas

This will only affect. at most. your hot water. stove and heating. In the end though these are more fundamental to your quality of life than your TV. stereo and 4 track.
Or am I just an old fogey sitting in front of the heater. with a saucepan of beans on the stove and no appreciation for your music ?
Basically it is its only with the appliances at the end of pipes that you will be dealing with the gas system. with all of them it is a matter of checking the gas is flowing. or getting the gas company to connect you and then getting the ignition flame on hot water systems going. and managing to light stoves and heaters. as once the gas has been turned off it's often hard to get everything going again.
Again it can cost up to $50 to get it turned on depending onyour approach. due on your first bill.

Electricity

At the front of each house. either outside or just inside the front door is a Fuse Box. The wires to this box are the Electricity Company's and carry a lot of power. Don't piss around with this as an 80 amp plus shock is no laughing matter. The box itself breaks this power down. Many Fuse Boxes have 4 fuses. 2 at about 5/10 amps for lights and another 2 at 15/20 amps for sockets. Some have extra ones for hot water systems or stoves. The Fuse box will have a switch to turn each of the circuits off and a main one to turn the whole lot off.

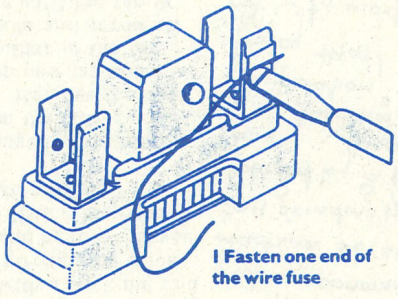
If all light and plug sockets in the house look OK. then try the main switch in the box. If it all works. then someone somewhere is still paying the connection and your onto a comfortable. but probably short lived place - i heard of one that lasted 3 months. More likely it's been cut off and you will have to ring up the electricity company who will come round and turn it on. This will cost up to $50 but won't be due 'till your first bill comes in (unless you take the advice in Getting Services Connected.)

If some or all the light and plug sockets are missing . but all their main wiring is in place. then you will have to replace them. before calling the Electricity Company. To do this:
expose 75mmm of the main wire.
strip off outer sheathing
strip off 20mm of lower sheathing on the 3 internal wires.
fit exposed metal into the correct live. neutral or earth points in socket and and tighten holding screw. then attach to wall.
Often you end up shifting the socket as you have shortened main wire. use polyfilla or just tape cardboard over hole left to stop draughts and prevent accidental touching of wires. If you intend kids to live with you then do it properly.

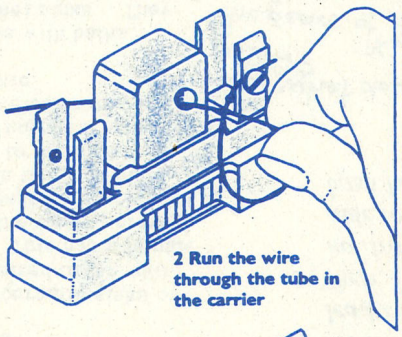
It may be that you end up only having or sorting out some of your sockets. The electricity company may not turn the power on for you. and you have to tape up all the loose wires with insulation tape and hope that means you don't lose use of other sockets that are on that same circuit loop from the main Box.

HOW TO REPLACE FUSE WIRE

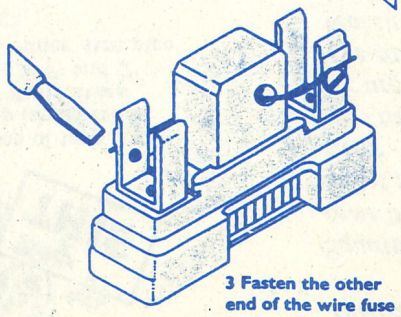
To replace a blown fuse wire loosen the two terminals holding the fuse and extract the broken pieces. Wrap one end of a new length of wire clockwise round one terminal and tighten the screw on it **(1)**, then run the wire through the tube in the carrier **(2)**, attach the wire to the other terminal **(3)** and cut off any excess from the ends.



1 Fasten one end of the wire fuse

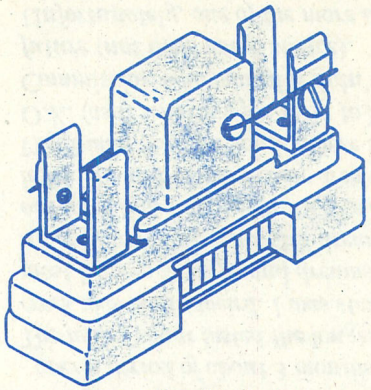


2 Run the wire through the tube in the carrier

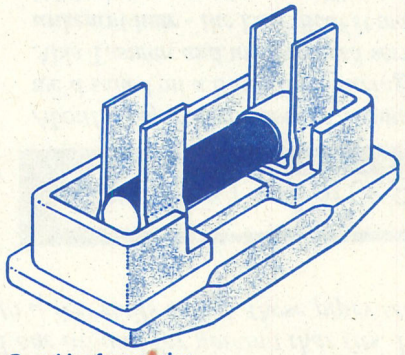


3 Fasten the other end of the wire fuse

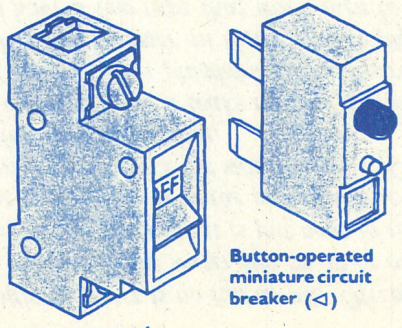
FUSE CARRIERS AND MCB'S



Single-bladed carrier with wire fuse



Cartridge fuse carrier



Switch-operated miniature circuit breaker (◁)

Button-operated miniature circuit breaker (◁)

very important information ↓

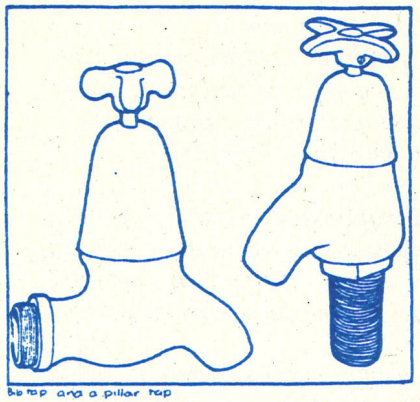
Live are red or brown
Neutral are black or blue
Earth is green and yellow striped.

BARRICADE BOOKS

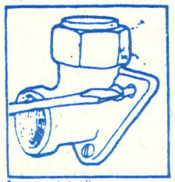
115 SYDNEY RD, BRUNSWICK
MELBOURNE 3056. AUSTRALIA
infoshop@ bedlam.
anarki.net
www.anarki.net/barricade/index

Purveyors of fine literature, music and art since February 4 1995

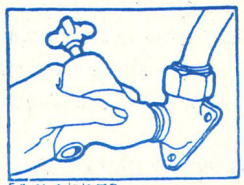
WHY NOT MAKE IT A HOLIDAY?



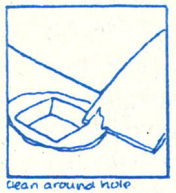
Bib tap and a pillar tap



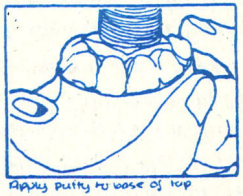
Back plate elbow



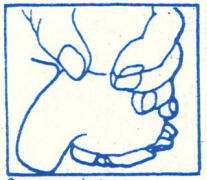
Fitting a bib tap



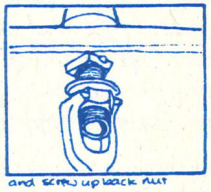
Clean around hole



Apply putty to base of tap

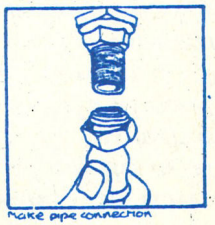


Place tap in hole

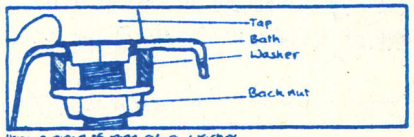


and screw up back nut

Clean off excess putty



Make pipe connection



Using a piece of pipe as a washer.

2.23.00 FITTING A TAP

2.23.01 There are two main types of taps : the pillar tap and the bib tap (apart from fancy Supataps, etc.). Their sizes correspond to pipe sizes - ½" and ¾" - but they can be fitted to either size pipe by using reducing fittings.

2.23.02 Bib taps are used with ceramic sinks or anywhere the tap is secured to the wall by a back plate elbow. This has a female BSP thread into which the tap is screwed, and a compression or capillary pipe connection. Three holes in the back plate enable it to be secured to the wall. You may need to convert to copper if using PVC pipe, as back plate elbows may be difficult to buy for plastic.

2.23.03 The pillar tap is for use with baths, basins, and pressed steel sinks. They have a long tap thread, with a back nut and a washer, which can go through the thickness of ceramic baths and basins. If you can, fit taps before the fitting is secured to the wall or moved into position.

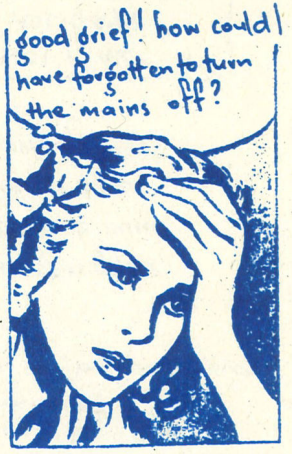
2.23.04 Remove the old or damaged tap, and/or clean round the holes on the fitting. Remove all the old putty. Remove the back nut and washer from the new tap and apply putty round the shoulder of the tap. Place the tap into the hole and screw on the back nut and washer until the tap is secure. Remove excess putty. The tap thread sometimes ends ½" (15mm) or so from the tap shoulder, so when securing it to a pressed steel sink, the nut can't be screwed up far enough. There are special washers, cap washers, which add 3/8" (10mm) to the thickness of the sink. If this is not enough, find a piece of old lead pipe (or any other pipe) which fits over the pipe thread, cut off an inch or so and use it as packing between the sink and the back nut.

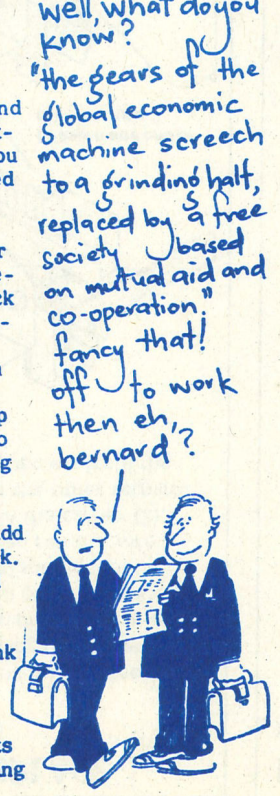
2.23.05 Pipes are joined to taps using a tap or swivel connector. If compression joints are used, a copper to female iron coupling can be used with PTFE tape.

Water

Squatting without water is no fun at all. Often you will come into a place and the water will be on or only turned off at the tap (a stopcock) that is put next to each water meter - in the front yard near the property line usually. Try that tap then go and check the water flows OK and no taps etc are missing and or leaking.

The easiest thing to do if it leaks from a missing tap or broken pipe is to go to a plumbers or hardware and buy lead caps that you hammer on to the end of pipes to seal them. If you have a few taps that work, then to lose a few is no drama - keep a look out for taps though as you may be able to find one around for nothing that fits. If you have to bash holes in a few walls to get those pipes sealed - do it.




well, what do you know? "the gears of the global economic machine screech to a grinding halt, replaced by a free society based on mutual aid and co-operation." fancy that! off to work then eh, bernard?

squatter stories...

About 30 of us went over to Tasmania one summer. Rumours spread that we'd sailed on a Black Boat during the night, but in fact we'd caught the Able Tasman and were refused service for the crimes of being shoeless with unkempt hair - the Love Boat it was not!

With that many of us squatting was not easy. We must have been in at least 15 empties - from wharves to hospitals to sheds out the back of blocks of flats - over a period of about 3 months.

The wharf squat lasted the longest: about 3 weeks. The old hospital on the creek was really weird. I was staying in a particular area of it and had the most bizarre feelings and dreams...the ones where you think you've woken up only to realise your still dreaming - dreams within dreams. We found out later that during the 1920's kids who were expected not to survive were left to die in this particular area where I was sleeping!

We finally found a house where the neighbours were O.K., the cops were O.K. (as it was easy for them to keep an eye on us) and the Housing Commission who owned it didn't care as they had no plans for it in the near future (not their usual stance).

Unfortunately, one of the more unstable members of the crew decided to take her clothes off and have a wash under the front lawn tap of the ppl opposite, who freaked out and we were booted out again.

A lot of us got sick of it after that and returned to the mainland. There were too many of us trying to squat in a small, conservative place like Hobart. It was heaps of fun, but destined to failure from the start.

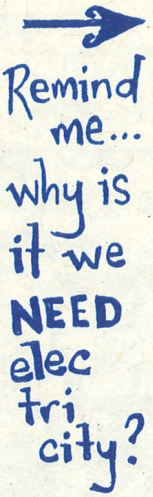
Luxury? Why Not.

OR, How to get services connected for FREE.

Assuming the gas, water, electricity or phone service in the house is in working order (ha - if only it were always so easy) - it is generally pretty simple to get them connected - however there are several things to keep in mind. Firstly - considering the squat may last 10 years, a month or a day - you may not want to be liable for connection fees which you're gonna have to pay even if you get kicked out quickly (especially if the house has been empty for years and years or the phone's been ripped out when they may have to install a phone-line - costs around $170). The best way to get services connected in a false name is bravado - and a good phone manner. Whereas 5 years ago they didn't ask a lot of questions - they're trying to make the system tighter now - so you may have to bluff a little. Depending on the service company they will ask for various amounts of information about you - mostly so they can do a credit check on you. So if you make up a name, date of birth, say you never had a phone/electricity etc bill in your name before, and say you just moved into the property (if you say yr renting they'll want yr landlord - so other stories, like that you own it, looking after it, doing it up etc are usually better), - you're off to a good start.

Generally they will ask for your home and work numbers - but you should be able to get away without either (ie I don't work - and we don't have the phone on) if need be. Apart from the water companies - they'll generally want some form of hard id - they'll start with a drivers licence number (don't drive), then a passport number (don't have one), birth certificate (sorry!) - but they'll settle for something like a health care card or student number - you can make up either. In my experience they don't check, alternately if they keep hitting blank walls about getting more information (eg I'm self employed, at home, this is my only contact etc) they generally give in. Telstra will also ask for a previous address - this is purely to assess whether you deserve interstate and international call privileges (since yr made-up person has no bad credit rating - yr in the running!). My experience is that if you pick an address in a share-house innercity kind of neighbourhood - say you lived there for a pretty long time but were never on the bill - they've got no way of knowing otherwise. The worst thing that can happen is they call and get a 'never heard of them' response - but I've never heard back from them on this one. Even better - say you lived interstate, and were really stable and all - at the moment they don't check. The less you can get away with saying the better - but sometimes I like to get carried away with crazy stories.

Obviously - make sure you keep a record of any information you give them as you may be asked for it as proof of identity at a later stage. Ok - the benefits are that you can avoid paying the bills if you get kicked out straight away, and don't have to pay your last bill



ALL ACROSS THE NATION – COAST TO COAST – LIVE
LAUGH
BE ANGRY
FEEL GOOD
BE HORRIFIED AND ANXIOUS
WELL DONE. THIS IS ALL PART OF THE NEW FASCISM. YOU'RE IN IT UP TO YOUR NECK
ONLY JOKING. YOU'RE A FREE MAN. EVERYTHING IS O.K. STAY TUNED
Leunig

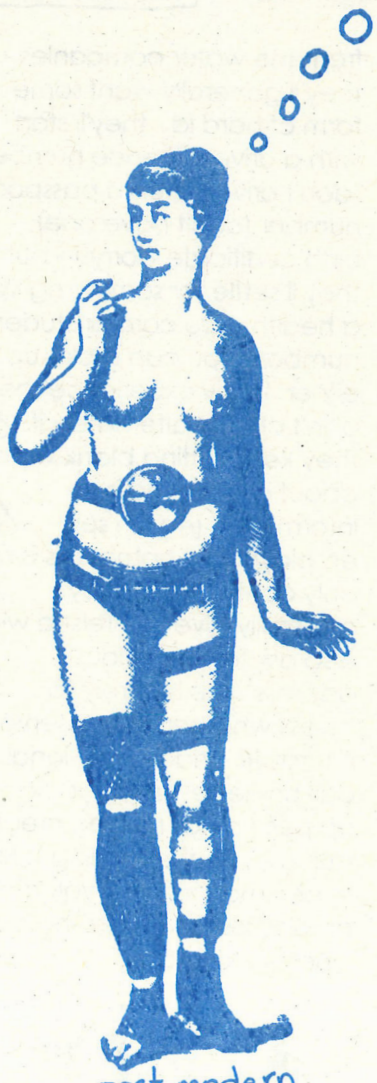
Do Not Frolik! ⊘

(always fun with long-distance calls etc) without it going on your record, and you can get stuff connected even with a bad record. Sometimes you can even accumulate a bit of mid-level ID in a fake name for other purposes. Drawbacks are that you probably won't be able to get concession rates on the bills if you do pay them (ie the squat lasts and you want them to stay connected), you won't have the official records as proof of how long you've been living there for legal etc purposes and - you may not want to give a perfectly good squat a bad rep with the service companies. On the other hand - my knack of getting around a bad record run up by me or others is to ring the company and pretend to be a snotty nosed new renter - "I think there may have been some people here 'squatting' before me!" and organise re-connection. Again, it takes some confidence and an impressive phone manner - but it's not real hard. And remember - the person in the call-centre who yr talking to is probably real bored and pissed off with wage-slavery - so if it's not going well - it's always worth approaching them with a bit of 'why do you care?' logic.

There are a few more things you may encounter with getting services on. One place I lived in, the electricity was on when we moved in - and we found out the bills were being sent directly to the owner (who lived in outer-suburban Melbourne) and he'd suddenly get a bill that would alert him to our presence. So, I called the company and pretended to be his sister-in-law...blah blah - just moved into the house and didn't want him to be bothered with our bills - couldn't they possibly be sent to us at the actual address... It worked - plus I managed to get the address and other info about the owner which is always a bonus. If the company knows you're squatting - they may refuse to connect you - though it hasn't happened to me, I'd recommend not letting on - and if there's a problem, ring back until you get a different operator.

Remember that it's illegal for water to be disconnected where people are living - even if the owner wants it disconnected, or is trying to move you along etc...unfortunately a lot of bastard landlords discourage squatters by concreting in the toilet or ripping out water pipes. The Department of Housing is particularly keen on this - though squatting these places can sometimes help you to skip public housing queues (especially if you can embarrass them). Generally speaking the water is "connected" all the time (just find the mains tap) - which means yr supposed to call the company and establish an account. Generally you can get away without paying for at least a few months before they check the meter - when you can of course claim you just moved in (if they catch you).
Of course the schemes to stop ppl scamming this stuff are always getting tighter - but if you stay on yr feet and work on yr phone manner you should be laughing on the rent-free, bills-free double bonanza!

WHY IS THERE SOMETHING ODD AND UNNATURAL ABOUT WOMEN WHO WANT TO TRY TO DO SOMETHING WITH THEIR LIVES? WHY ARE WOMEN SUCH FUCKING APPENDAGES IN EVERYTHING?..... FEMINISM ISN'T OVER, IT DIDN'T FAIL, BUT SOMETHING NEW HAPPENED - GRRRL POWER ...NEXT TIME A BLOKE FEELS YOUR ARSE, PATRONISES YOU, SLAGS OFF YOUR BODY - GENERALLY TREATS YOU LIKE SHIT - FORGET THE MORAL HIGHGROUND, FORGET HE'S BEEN INSTILLED WITH PATRIARCHY AND IS A VICTIM TOO, FORGET RATIONALE AND DEBATE. JUST DECK THE BASTARD.



the art of SCAMMING

so, now that you've got free shelter, have you thought about trying to get food and clothing for free? how about electricity, books, the phone, a sewing machine to use? scamming is a state of mind, an opportunity for adventure and a way to get the things you need without supporting the dodgy bastards. it's a chance to enjoy a few luxuries that most people take for granted. scamming something is different, even if only subtly, from getting it for free. you gotta work your scam, know your stuff and do a bit of background checking, asking around, casing the joint etc before you can hope to pull off a really good scam. confidence is the only skill you need. if you're new to the game, start small and work your way up to the bigg'ns. invite your mates along and make it a good time. tell everyone you trust, and get them doing it as well. sure, it means someone might cotton on more quickly, but this kind of information should be shared and there's nothing that warms the cockles of a poor squatters heart like a good story about fucking over the system!

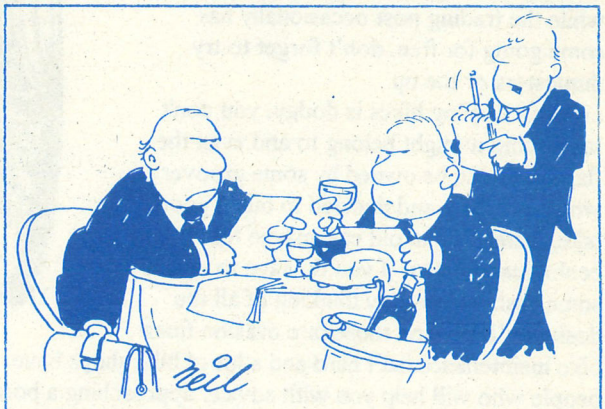
a good scam usually presents itself and a good scammer is able to take advantage of opportunities that come along. rolling with the punches and all that. there are, of course, serious ethical questions about who to scam. i guess it's up to the individual to apply their own creed, but if you're out to get everything you can, from anyone you can, without regard for their circumstances, can i recommend a leisurely stroll down melbourne's fabulous new citylink. maybe around 8.30am. only losers steal from the poor - go take a porsche!

once you're all sorted at the new pad, check out your local neighbourhood - what's happening? there's probably a local community centre with all sorts of handy resources and helpful staff available; a place for the kids to go play, a skills share, barter or LETS system. often centres run free or cheap courses, and have cheap office type stuff like internet access, faxes, scanners etc. centres also give people from the local area the chance to network and develop their own grand schemes...what about getting a bunch of people together to do working bees at your new house and then doing one at someone else's?
also, don't forget that your friendly centrelink provide faxes, phones, photocopiers and computers free of charge.

food

charities and church groups are usually hospitable when you're in need of a meal (check out the timetable)- although you really take your chances with the vegetarian selection. food parcels are also available for those with the luxury of cooking facilities. the hare krishna restaurant on swanston st (crossways, food for life) will feed you for free if you do the dishes for half an hour.
food no bombs distribute free, organic food to community groups as well as doing vegan kitchens twice a week. all the

food is donated by retailers who consider it passed it's use by date and would otherwise throw it out. kitchens (free food!) are currently run at 7.30pm near the commission flats on palmerston st, carlton on tuesday and on the corner of seperation and high sts, northcote on sunday. remember they always need an extra hand or two. call 9489-3554 for info. approaching ppl in resturants, or waiting for them to leave and scoffing down the leftovers is a great way to decrease waste. if you're into recovering post-consumer waste and eating for free, check out the article about dumpster diving all-you-can-eat places are perfect for bringing home the salad. sew a plastic bag onto your t-shirt or belt and wear a loose-fitting jacket to cover the bulge.
in fancy sit-down restaurants, you can dress up to look the part, swan in and order a huge meal. halfway through take a little dead cockroach or piece of glass out of your pocket and place it deftly on the plate. jump up, astonished and suitably



"How would you gentlemen like your executive heart attacks, strong, medium or mild?"

outraged (often less is more) and summon the headwaiter. "never have i been so insulted. i could have eaten that. my god, what kind of restaurant is this?". you have the option of refusing to pay and leaving, or letting the waiter talk you into a brand new meal for free.
the active redistribution of societies wealth is a grassroots, DIY approach to feeding yourself and your mates. check out the articles from *Steal this Book* for some handy tips on technique. if you ever do any shoplifting and get caught, you could try to negotiate with the coppers. it's their decision whether or not to charge you, and you might be able to talk your way out of it. however, if you start negotiating with them, you've basically admitted to the charge, so be careful about what you say.
joining or organising a food co-op is one of the best ways to promote solidarity and get lots of yummy food real cheap. the idea is to get tonnes of stuff at once and break it down into smaller lots for different households. you need a bit of

equipment and organisation to get it started, and of course, committed people.

creature comforts

how about a hot shower or machine washed clothes? (see timetable)- don't forget the soap (available at selected public toilets). pubs are a handy spot to pick up rolls of toilet paper, now harder to come by with the super-roll industrial size jobs becoming more fashionable. still, plenty have stuck to the tried and true looroll, so don't let them miss out on the chance to support your lifestyle.

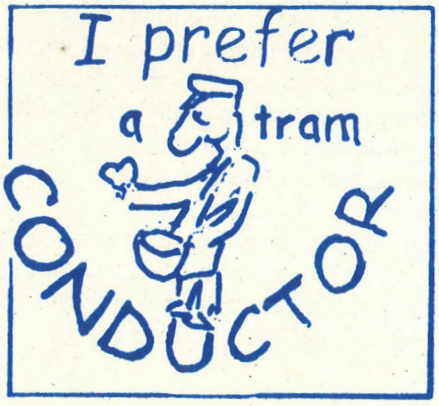
transport

autonomous transport is always preferable to the urban renegade... while public transport is no good to you between the hours of 12 and 5am cycling offers a free, ecologically and physically sound mode of getting around, anytime. ask around; your friends might have a crusty old dunga in the back shed that just needs a little lovin', while the trading post occasionally has some going for free. don't forget to try dumpsters or the tip.

i reckon stealing bikes is dodgy. you don't know who it might belong to and even the flash ones can be owned by some groover who's saved up and decided to buy a good bike, instead of an old car, maybe for ecological reasons. if you do have to invest some cash initially, try thinking of all the dosh you'll save on those fare evasion fines!

bike maintenance isn't hard and a lot of bike shops have people who will help you with advice. approaching a bored looking young man (incredibly prolific at local bikeshops) rather than the older, better dressed manager-type works for me. i've always replaced my punctured tyre at the shop, using their tools and their advice.

it's not all grits and chitlins though. nasty coppers with nothing to do can book you for such absurdities as "riding improperly" and "misuse of a bike lane". hmm...right. by law all bikes are supposed to have a bell and all riders a helmet. late night jaunts require white light at the front and flashing red at the rear.



fare evasion is a political action (it says so outside the smith street safeway) and if you protest the heavy-handed kennet approach to public transport, don't let them forget!

(kennet fans can check out what the man himself is up to on www.realjeff.com)

beware of inspectors, often reported wearing long blue coats and equally as often in plainclothes, jumping on to nab you before you can make a grand escape out the door. sometimes, these vultures lie in wait and nick you if you sit down without validating. numerous cheeky scammers have concocted equally numerous stories to get out of paying fines, each more impressive than the last. i'm sure they've heard it all before, but that's no reason to give up without a fight. try the daft tourist, lost in the big city (this works well when combined with a foreign accent). the usual procedure is to escort you off the tram (holding your arm, or dragging you off constitutes assault) to take your name and address, verify it with the cops and issue you with a ticket. of course, they can't do that if you're no longer there. the inspectors have no powers of arrest or detainment. as long as you can get away from them, there's nothing they can do. don't wait around with them until the cops come, you could get arrested, especially if your attempts to get away have been physical(which usually becomes "assault"). word has it that a local legal centre is mounting a case to challenge the legality of the coin only machines ie. that you could have made a reasonable attempt to purchase a ticket but were thwarted by a lack of change. sounds promising. one idea that makes it nearly impossible to get busted is to buy a ticket at a local vender before you get on the tram (if it's financially possible) and travel with your un-validated ticket in handy reach.

trains can be worked pretty easily too. you don't usually need to worry about the suburban end of the journey, although there are sometimes blitzes at the larger suburban stations during peak hour. when you get into the city, as long as you can get past our friends at the gates, you're set. sometimes all this requires is boldness; walking through the wheelchair access gate when they're distracted by someone else, or not there at all. travelling off-peak is an advantage. never mind the ticket, just firmly push the yellow barriers aside and stroll through. having a friend behind you for cover is a good idea. with a little practice, you can get quick at opening them with your knee, which keeps your hands free and makes it look totally aboveboard. at flinders street there's an entrance on the river side of the station (southgate)that is never watched. from there you can get anywhere in the station.

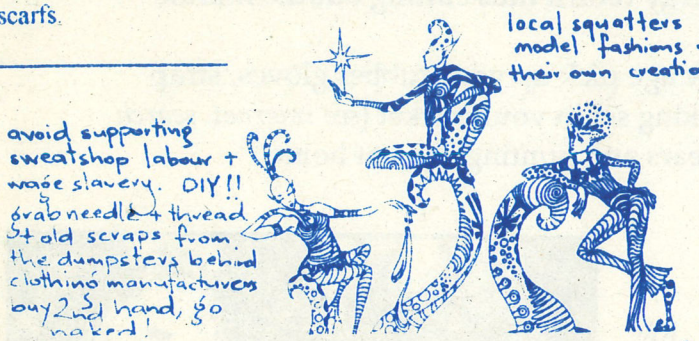
interstate you want to try hitching or trucking. pack your backs, hit the road, stick out you thumb and smile nicely. if you're the scruffy type and haven't got a chance in hell of being picked up by your friendly businessman commuting between states, or a bit concerned about the safety aspect of hitching, grab your yellow pages, head down to centrelink and start calling up truck companies. ask if any of the drivers are willing to take a passenger. insurance regulations make it a bit harder. if there's a crash and you get injured, you can sue, so not every company is going to be keen. keep trying though. what you really need is an owner-driver with a long haul in front of them and a desire for conversation. i've done

this a fair bit when i have to travel long distance or have to be somewhere at a certain time. in my experience truckies are a very generous lot, especially with company accounts at diners and truckstops.

clothing

while i've heard of people climbing into charity clothing bins, latest models come fitted with a bloody annoying lid that make it difficult to get in. classy pickings can be liberated at any local clothing store. this sort of activity should be entered into with due frivolity and good humour, but with a certain respect for the technological advantages of your "host". charity op shops at night or weekends can be a treasure chest when people have dropped off their unwanteds afterhours. healthcare card holders and their friends can go to the smith family in collingwood once every 6 months and get oodles of

free clothes as well as lots of lovely hand knitted blankets and scarfs.


avoid supporting sweatshop labour + wage slavery. DIY!!
grab needle + thread + old scraps from the dumpsters behind clothing manufacturers
buy 2nd hand, go naked!
local squatters model fashions of their own creation...

mutual aid

from each according to their ability, to each according to their need. so, now you know how to get loads of free and scamable stuff, with just a little investment in time and energy. *needs* met!

what about your *abilities*? how do you spend all that free time you have because you don't have to work to pay the rent? think about giving back to your community, about what skills you have that could be of use. talk to people, make a few calls, organise, *get connected*.

The timetable below is current as of October 1999 – if you can, maybe check before you go.

Always take I. D. and proof of Address with you

Name & address	Meals	Times	Cost	Food Parcels?	Vouchers?	Other
St Mary's House of Welcome 165 Brunswick St, Fitzroy Ph: 9417 6497	Breakfast Morn tea Lunch	9 am 10.30am 12 & 1 pm	Free Free $2.50			Social activities Showers avail
Ozanam Community Centre 268 Abbotsford st, Nth Melb Ph: 9329 6733	Lunch Dinner	12 – 1 pm 5 & 5.30 pm	Free	Ozanam Crisis Accommodation Ph: 9329 5100 179 Flemington Road, Parkville		Ring to organise emergency accommodation
Prahran Mission 1st Floor, 221 Chapel Street Ph: 9510 9055	Breakfast Lunch	8 – 9.30 am 11 – 2 pm	$1.00 $3.60	Food Parcels for adults without children Showers available	Assistance with prescriptions & travel	Drop in Centre 1 – 4 pm M, W, Th, F
St Marks Community Centre 250 George St, Fitzroy Ph: 9419 3288	Lunch	1 – 1.30 pm M, W, Th, F	Free	Vegetables & bread available Enter through rear entrance in lane-way		MEN only Shelter Accommodation
Missionaries of Charity Sisters 69 George St, Fitzroy Men	Dinner	4.30 – 6 pm	Free			
Missionaries of Charity Sisters 101 Gore St, Fitzroy Women	Take away Dinner	6 pm	Free	Opposite Fitzroy Police station. Cnr King William & Brunswick St's		WOMEN only
St Vincent De Paul Soup Van	Dinner	8. pm	Free	Opposite Safeway Smith St Collingwood		
0413 758 691 'Doug Walsh'	Dinner	7.15 – 8pm 10.30 to–	Free	Victoria Market Car-park City		
St Vincent De Paul Mobile Conference 176 Brunswick St, Fitzroy	Dinner	11 pm Mon – Fri 10am – 2pm Free	Free	Fitzroy residents only Food Parcels	Food Vouchers	Clothing
Open Family Soup van	Dinner	Fri & Sat 8.30 pm to 10.30pm	Free	Outside St Paul's Anglican Cathedral Flinders St Melb		
Church Of all Nations Cnr Palmerston & Lygon Sts Carlton. 9347 7266	Lunch	Mon only 11.30 – 1 pm	$1.00	Food Parcels 9 – 1 pm Fresh bread		
Seventh day Adventist Church 27 Alfred Cres, Nth Fitzroy	Dinner	Tues & Sun 6.30pm	Free	Enter from rear of building		

Fitzroy & Carlton Community Credit Co-operative Ltd
145 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065 Ph: 9419 4533

Name & Address	Meals	Time	Cost	Food Parcels?	Vouchers?	Other
Salvation Army Support Service 69 Bourke St, Melb Ph: 9650 1180	Lunch	12 – 1 pm	Free	Food parcels	Vouchers by appointment	
Hare Krishna 1st Floor 123 Swanston st, Melb City	Lunch	12 – 3 pm	$3.00			
Vegetarian, Hot n Hearty Cnr Smith & Otter St Collingwood	Dinner	Tuesday 6 pm	Free	Monday nights Opp Melb nights City Square. Sun Nights, Fitzroy St, ST Kilda		
St Joseph's Hall Food Bank 46 Otter st, Collingwood Ph: 9417 2959				Collect ticket 9.30 am Monday to pick up food Tuesday 11 – 12.30 am or Friday 12 – 1.30 pm Fresh bread available (bring bag)		For Collingwood, Clifton Hill & Abbotsford residents only
Chaitanya's Hare Krishna Liardet Community Centre Cnr Nott & Liarder Sts Port Melb Ph: 9699 5122	Dinner	6 – 8 pm	Free	197 Bank Sts Albert Park	Mon – Sun Breakfast Lunch & Dinner Health care & Student Card holders	
Sacred Heart Mission 87 Grey St ST Kilda Ph. 9537 1166	Lunch	12 – 1.30 pm	Free	Food parcels 10 – 2 pm Mon–Fri for Locals		Drop in Centre 9.30 – noon
Ecumenical Food Relief Centre Behind St Stephens Church 350 Church St, Richmond Ph: 9429 3574				Food parcels Mon & Fri1 – 3 pm Wed 1 – 2 pm		Local Residents
Brotherhood of St Laurence 67 Brunswick St, Fitzroy Ph. 9483 1183	Furniture assistance Cnr of Palmer & Brunswick Sts			Wednesday mornings 10 – 12 noon		Furniture service
Coolabah Drop in Centre	67 Brunswick St Fitzroy (BSL)			Over 50's Community	Meals available	Must be a client

HUNTING AND GATHERING
in the house of Babylon

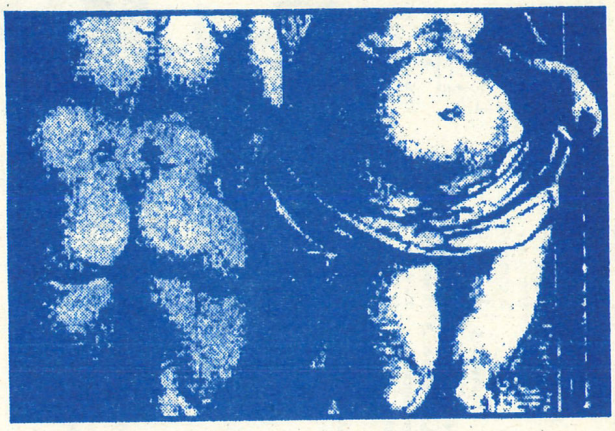
Revolution is the gateway that leads from here to there. Gone in Babylon are the pristine hunting grounds that once inhabited it's territory. Hunting and gathering in these places of concrete jungle and urban sprawl is no longer a direct natural link to food chains first set in motion from out of the primordial ooze.

While most of us seek to acquire currency in such a way that our toil is hardly worth spending money on anything less than perfect produce, a great deal of edible and perhaps not picture perfect food is left for collection and then to be buried. A more compassionate way of life would see the crime against humanity that is this sort of waste... wouldn't we? Multinational supermarket chains are perhaps the worst offenders in regards to wasting edible food and this makes them the best target for "dumpster diving". And if you don't have room for a vegetable garden, diving may be your last chance to acquire food through a clean exchange of energy output for energy return thus cutting out the middle man... money

Hunters and gatherers of the new age pick up your rubber gloves, strap on your head torches, put your lock picking set in your pocket (*see internet, search engine set for 'lock-picking'*) and leave spears and hunting dogs at home.

Her belly is full

joy.



TIPS: JUMP IN A DUMPSTA... GET OVER IT!

- go to the supermarket in the morning and open the packets of food you'd most like to find that night
- don't stop at food. Check out ya local industrial dumpsters for all sorts of other goodies: chairs, cabinets, old tubs (for the firebath of course) make a fireplace under the tub and stick a plank of wood in the bottom of it so you don't burn ya bum.)
- check up on your food hygiene stuff (particularly cross-contamination) so you avoid nasty food poisoning
- be prepared to jump in and dig around or you'll miss all the good stuff
- bakeries and other food outlets in your area are best approached and asked if there's a specific time they throw food out, arrange a pickup (can't hurt asking, be brave)

Remember, bins are your friends. Most of society believes that they are dirty and best kept out of sight. Most of society believes the same of you. Society also believes that these dirty vessels deserve nothing more than their trash. They believe the same of bins.

Where does the copper go?

I remember that day when I first cracked a house and policeman came round to kick me out. As I didn't know my rights, my stand was gone, and my boots did the walking. As I wandered through the cold I asked myself...

Where does the copper go?

To their home, couch, tv, homecooking furniture, loved ones and families, to unwind before another day of up-rite-anal-attentive-bullshit.
I remember the day we had a happy little squat, with water for the toilet, teas and even to wash a pot. Until one day the word had been passed to far around and to some dodgy Metal Jacks who were desperate for a smoke, hungry for some cash and if one day
That pipe is ripe
And the harvest looks right
And the water system's gone in a night.

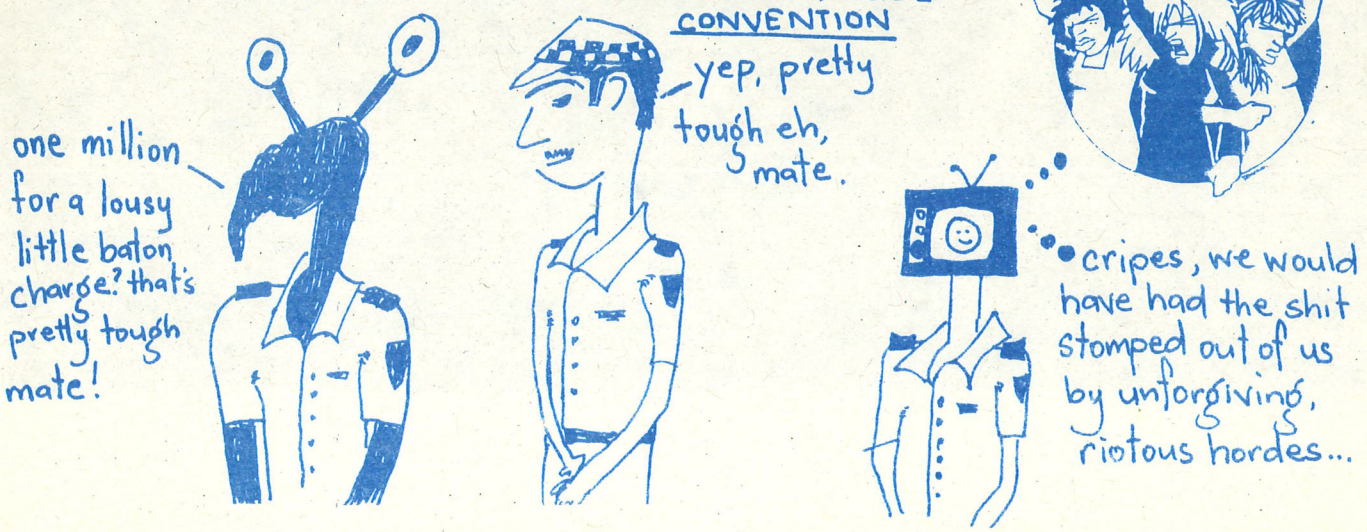
Where does the copper go?

To the scrap metal man, to the scale to the junkpile, for some dosh, for some gear, for some Bliss, to chill before another day of down-rite-Junked-up-anal-attentive-bullshit.
But with some knowledge, legal understanding, a rent receipt, amenities connected and a "what the fuck!" attitude
You can tell the copper where to go!

Police may have to pay school protesters $1m in damages

VICTORIA'S police force is about to be hit with a massive lawsuit on behalf of protesters hurt during the infamous baton charge at Richmond Secondary College six years ago.

TEA BREAK @ AN INTERGALACTIC POLICE CONVENTION


one million for a lousy little baton charge? that's pretty tough mate!
yep, pretty tough eh, mate.
cripes, we would have had the shit stomped out of us by unforgiving, riotous hordes...

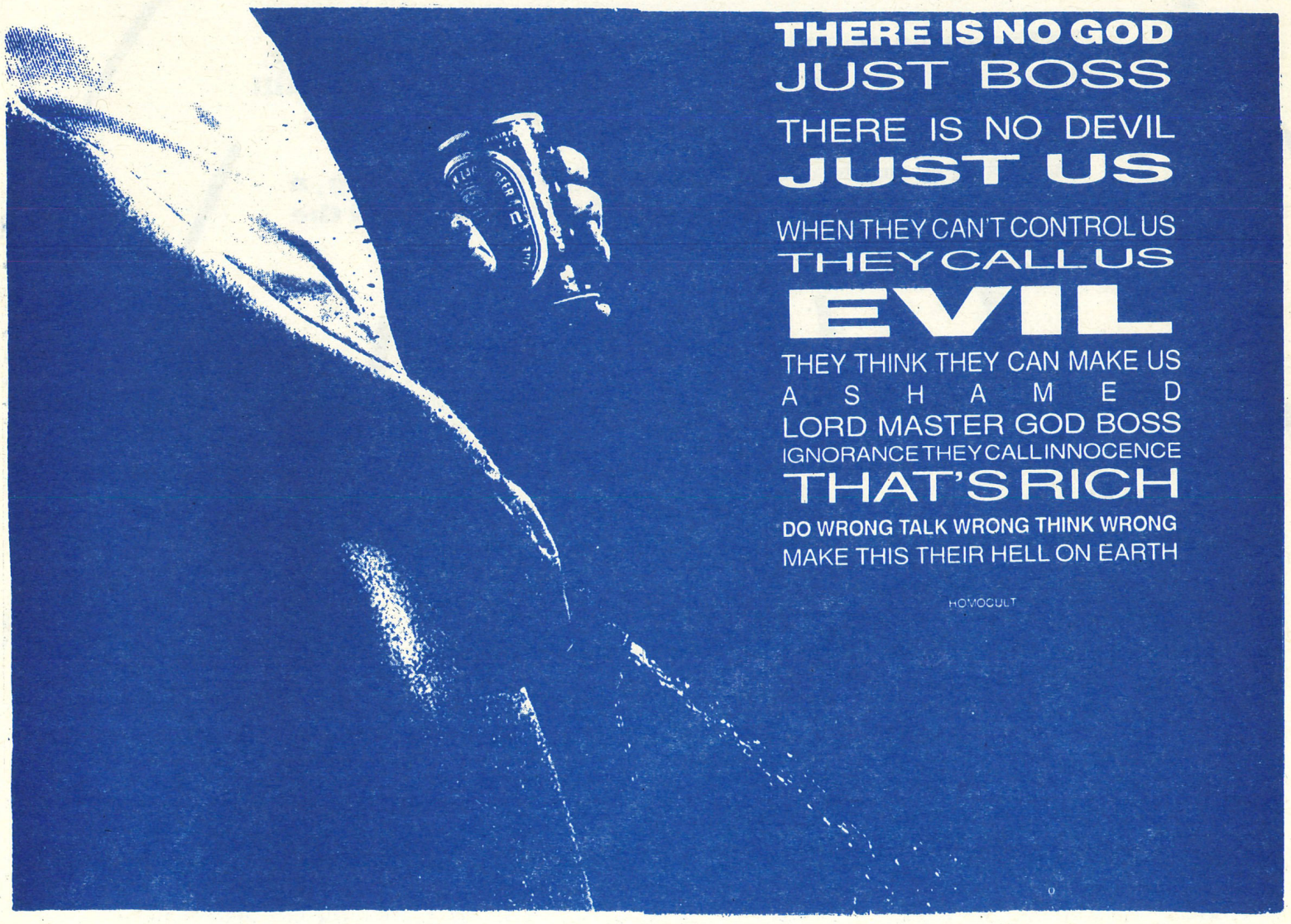
You know, it's not just you

i think it's important to have some understanding of the role charities play in maintaining the status quo (poverty, the class system, the state et al). as i'm advocating ppl use charities to get what they can, i also want to include a piece about the farce charity has become.

i want to say that i've worked with various charity groups and know what an amazing difference they make to ppl's lives. if i didn't, i don't think i would be suggesting ppl use them at all. but, charities are often associated with huge religious corporations, otherwise known as churches, and/or have seriously dodgy agendas. these are the ones i want to talk about.

"The Starvation Army" provides an excellent critique of the work of our old friends the sallies. the army was founded on incredibly strict moral principles in late victorian england by ex-pawnbroker evangelist william booth who was determined to rid england of the three A's - Alcoholism, Atheism and Anarchy. he soon realised that he needed to keep the underclass from starving if he was going to save their souls. the army was founded on homophobic, fundamentalist principles. it actively supports right wing organisations, fully participated in the stealing of children from aboriginal families, runs corrupt business practices, has been investigated for insurance scams, tries to prevent workers from joining unions, steadily corporatises it's business holdings, aligns itself with companies like mcdonalds...

this sycophantic pandering to the rich and corrupt isn't new. in perhaps his most infamous statement, booth said a "philanthropic body cannot afford to alienate the class which supports it", and which class is that, eh? how do you not alienate a class? well, for a start you don't suggest that the poverty suffered by these "poor



that's scamming it.

souls" has been caused by the very people you're trying hardest not to alienate!

despite the record burning, demonic references, puritanical doctrines, rigid hierarchy, weird uniforms and dreadful music, it seems that society is prepared to indulge the cultishness of the sallies more so than the branch davidians, all because of their charity work. but how much of their resources and effort actually go into good deeds and how much goes into pushing christian morality and their other agendas?

ppl directed to work for the sallies care of the courts have had disturbing things to say. forced labourers have seen heaps of clothing, bedding and furniture getting dumped as opposed to distributed because they can't sell it and giving it away would flood the market and undercut their profit! whoever heard of a 'charity' working on the basis of supply and demand!

equally hypocritcal, the sallies have provided food, entertainment, religious and moral support to aussie troops in almost every conflict they've been involved in, and seem to have no qualms about taking the money of right wing regimes (apartheid era south africa and rhodesia) and human rights abusers (suharto run indonesia). i could swear i heard moses say "thou shalt not kill".

too often charities look at the symptoms of poverty (crime, violence, societal disintegration) and mistake the symptoms for the causes. as the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff charity corporations allow the status quo to remain. the reasons for poverty are not dealt with, and the underlying inequalities and inaccess to resources are ignored. i would accept the line that it's hard enough trying to feed the hungry, let alone working to abolish oppression, but i don't think trying to recruit ppl to god is feeding the hungry.

as for the state, well it's busy farming out welfare while still stealing the tax dollar! i wonder how much the "defence" budget gets this year? i also wonder what would happen if state sanctioned charities closed their doors to the homeless and hungry. two things i think. one, more ppl would starve. two, more ppl would create alternative community based organisations to feed and house themselves.

squatter stories...

I have been squatting on and off for a few years now and believe the basis for doing so stems from living your politics.
This land we call Australia is stolen country and squatting is one way to de-legitimise this stupid notion that all these fat cats own the place!

TVT™
NO - MEANING IS YOURS TO PLAGIARISE

FREE SPEECH IS THE RIGHT TO SHOUT 'THEATRE' IN A CROWDED FIRE

a yippie proverb.

Only hours earlier on "The Merv Griffin Show" Abbie's half of the screen had been blackened to prevent viewers from seeing the shirt.

Nov 1970; Abbie wears a flag shirt @ a press conference on the subject of censorship.

Abbie Hoffman is one of my hero biscuits. He was involved in organising some incredible (and infamous) actions and he worked to forge links between different radicals (including the mainly white, middle-class student left and the Black Panther Party). He had a legendary wit and used it where ever he could to fuck things up for the New Left and other 'serious' activists. He tried to remain revolutionary while the ideas and efforts of the sixties (US) were integrated into, and co-opted by, the materialism of the 70's. Even in the height of his infamy he could still panhandle with the best of them. Norman Mailer (if Norman is any judge of character) described him as "...an immaculate conception between Fidel Castro and Groucho Marx." He fucked things up and encouraged other ppl to do the same. He wanted revolution for the hell of it!

While I don't really want to detail the angst of my own hero worship, it has to be said that Abbie was an activist of his time...pre-Women's Movement and pre-Stonewall. Like many of his ilk, Abbie suffered from sexism and homophobia. At the same time as he was working with friends who would later become well-known in the 'gay' rights struggle, in *Revolution For The Hell Of It* he laments a "fag-ridden peace movement". By this I'm sure he means it was full of beautiful men with dogs called Dorothy and best friends called Max with hairy armpits *and* breasts.

His utopian vision involved a great many naked women willing to get laid at the drop of his pants. Feminism has laid some serious criticism at the bare feet of the "free love" movement as another example of straight men getting what they want out of women. Radical were they? Well, women who weren't eager to play the free love game were labeled frigid or not really down with it, man. Yeah sure, just turn on and enjoy, baby! To Abbies credit, when a selection of his work was republished as a "The Best Of..." book, he didn't try to adapt his earlier works to suit a new-found political correctness, or perhaps he still didn't have a clue. I'm willing to be corrected on that.

***Steal this Book* changed my life. I started thinking about crime differently. I read about the Yippie! experiment, of which Abbie was a part, and of his influence on it. I thought, this is the kind of book I'd like to write when I grow up. It kicks ass!**

As Abbie sees it... " It's universally wrong to steal from your neighbour, but once you get beyond the one-to-one level and pit the individual against the mulitnational conglomerate, the federal bureaucracy, the modern plantation of agro-business, or the utility company, it becomes strictly a value judgement to decide exactly who is stealing from whom. One person's crime is another person's profit. Capitalism is license to steal; the government simply regulates who steals and how much. I always wanted to put together an outlaw handbook that would help to raise consciousness on these points

while doing something about evening the score. There was also the challenge of testing the limits of free speech".

If I could recommend any piece of literature to the would-be scammer it would be *STB*. Abbies sass and cheek are evident through out the book and although a lot of the information is dated, the spirit with which he writes is infectious and inspiring! It contains some excellent advice about a renegade lifestyle...how to survive, how to liberate and how to fuck over. Includes where to get a free feed in New York in 1970, free furniture, medical care and airline tickets, how to make molotov cocktails, smoke bombs and service a revolver, how to print flyers and posters, first-aid for street fighters, querrilla broadcasting, monkey warfare and how to survive underground when the shit goes down. Not all the information is going to be useful to everyone, but take what you need and leave the rest.

Abbie couldn't get a anyone to publish Steal This Book --thirty publishers turned it down. When the book was released, bookstores wouldn't carry it. Newspapers, TV and radio all refused to run advertisements. But despite these set backs, Steal This Book found its way on to the Best Seller list in 1971. The book sold more than quarter of a million copies between April and November 1971 alone. So where are they all? The only available copies in Victoria are at University of Ballarat and La Trobe libraries. Barricade Books library has a copy of "The Best of Abbie Hoffman" which includes *STB* excerpts.

After he published Fuck the System and Woodstock Nation, Abbie was kept informed of every sort of rip off scam. He saw that this collection of ways to beat the system could be made into a catalog for the Yippie movement "Sort of a tongue in cheek parody of the American 'How To' manuals that were so popular at the time," said Abbie. But Steal This Book is much more than just a manual of survival in the counter culture world -- a "Hip Boy Scout Handbook" as the New York Times called it. In between the chapters on "Free Food" and "First Aid for Streetfighters," Abbie's thoughts on freedom, liberty, responsibility, self reliance shine through.

Thanks to current computer technology, Steal This Book is available once again. However, to get an actual hard copy of the book, with a real cover and everything, you can do so by contacting orders@fourwallseightwindows.com (royalties of which go to the Abbie Hoffman Activist Foundation). Also, it should be noted that this book is copyrighted © 1996 Johanna Lawrenson.

Includes text from vintage vinyl net site.

CUSTOMERS ARE REQUIRED TO

REPRODUCE

IN THE INTERESTS OF THE

MARKET

ISSUED BY DEPT OF SOCIAL ORDER
In conjuction with HETROLIFE PLC.

STEAL THIS

This has been reproduced from Steal This Book in it's entirety, including dated observations about new fangled security technology. On-to-it scammers recognise that systems that were new and impressive then, are commonplace today. Always remember to adapt your standard MOP (mode of operations) to suit the environment around you and, of course, your own personal style! The best defence against detection is attitude! Stay relaxed, smile at store workers. Nothing happening here folks!

This section presents some general guidelines on thievery to put you ahead of the impulse swiping. With some planning ahead, practice and a little nerve, you can pick up on some terrific bargains.

Being a successful shoplifter requires the development of an outlaw mentality. When you enter a store you should already have cased the joint so don't browse around examining all sorts of items, staring over your shoulder and generally appearing like you're about to snatch something and are afraid of getting caught. Enter, having a good idea of what you want and where it's located.

Camouflage is important. Be sure you dress the part by looking like an average customer. If you are going to rip-off expensive stores (why settle for less), act like you have a chauffeur driven car double parked around the corner. A good rule is dress in the style and price range of the clothes, etc., you are about to shoplift. The reason we recommend the more expensive stores is that they tend to have less security guards, relying instead on
mechanical methods or more usually on just the sales people. Many salespeople are uptight about carrying out a bust if they catch you. A large number are thieves themselves, in fact one good way to steal is simply explain to the salesclerk that you're broke and ask if you can take something without paying. It's a great way to radicalize shop personnel by rapping to them about why they shouldn't give a shit if the boss gets ripped off.

The best time to work out is on a rainy, cold day during a busy shopping season. Christmas holiday is a shoplifter's paradise. In these periods you can wear heavy overcoats or loose raincoats without attracting suspicion. The crowds of shoppers will keep the nosy "can-I-help-you's" from fucking up your style.

Since you have already checked out the store before hitting it, you'll know the store's "blind-spots" where you can be busy without being observed too easily. Dressing rooms, blind alley aisles and washrooms are some good spots. Know where the cashier's counter is located, where the exits to the street and storage rooms are to be found, and most important, the type of security system in use.

If you are going to snatch in the dressing room, be sure to carry more than one item in with you. Don't leave tell-tale empty hangers behind. Take them out and ditch them in the aisles.

An increasingly popular method of security is a small shoplifting plastic detector attached to the price tag. It says "Do Not Remove" and if you do, it electronically triggers an alarm in the store. If you try to make it out the door, it also trips the alarm system. When a customer buys the item, the cashier removes the detector with a special deactivation machine. When you enter the store, notice if the door is rigged with electronic eyes. They
are often at the waist level, which means if the item is strapped to your calf or tucked under your hat, you can walk out without a peep from the alarm.
If you trigger the alarm either inside the store or at the threshold, just dash off lickety-split. The electronic eyes are often disguised as part of the decor. By checking to see what the cashier does with merchandise bought, you can be sure if the store is rigged.

Other methods are undercover pigs (sic) that look like shoppers, one-way mirrors and remote control television cameras. Undercover pigs (sic) are expensive. so stores are usually understaffed. Just watch out (without appearing to watch out) that no one observes you in action. As to mirrors and cameras there are always blind spots in a store created when displays are moved around, counters shifted, and boxes piled in the aisles. Mirrors and cameras are rarely adjusted to fit these changes. Don't get turned off by this security jazz. The percentage of stores that have sophisticated security systems such as those described is very small. If you work out at lunch time, the security guards and many of the sales personnel will be out of the store. Just before closing is also good, because the clerks are concentrating on going home.

By taking only one or two items, you can prevent a bust if caught by just acting like a dizzy klepto socialite getting kicks or use the "Oh-gee-I-forgot-to-pay" routine. Stores don't want to hassle going into court to press charges, so they usually let you go after you return the stuff. If you thought ahead, you'll have some cash ready to pay for the items you've pocketed, if caught. Leave your I.D. and phone book at home before going shopping. People rarely go to jail for shoplifting, most if caught never even see a real cop. Just lie like a fucker and the most you'll get is a lecture on law and order and a warning not to come back to that store or else.

TECHNIQUES

The lining of a bulky overcoat or loose raincoat can be elaborately outfitted with a variety of custom-made large pockets. The openings to these pockets are not visible since they are inside the coat. The outside pockets can be torn out leaving only the opening or slit. Thus you can reach your

BOOK idea

hand (at counter level) through the slit in your coat and drop objects into the secret pockets sewn into the lining. Pants can also be rigged with secret pockets. The idea is to let your fingers do the walking through the slit in your coat, while the rest of the body remains the casual browser. You'll be amazed at how much you can tuck away without any noticeable bulge.

Another method is to use a hidden belt attached to the inside of your coat or pants. The belt is specially designed with hooks or clothespins to which items can be discretely attached. Ditching items into hidden pockets requires a little cunning. You should practice before a mirror until you get good at it.

A good idea is to work with a partner. Dig this neat duet. A man and woman walk into a store together looking like a respectable husband and wife.
The man purchases a good belt or shirt and engages the salesman in some distracting conversation as he rings up the sale. Meanwhile, back in the aisle, "wife" is busy rolling up two or three suits. Start from the bottom while they are still on the rack and roll them up, pants and jackets together, the way you would roll a sleeping bag. The sleeves are tied around the roll making a neat little bundle. The bundle is then tucked between your thighs. The whole operation takes about a minute and with some practice you can walk for hours with a good size bundle between your legs and not appear like you just shit in your pants. Try this with a coat on in front of a mirror and see how good you get at it.

Another team method is for one or more partners to distract the sales clerks while the other stuffs. There are all sorts of theater skits possible. One person can act drunk or better still appear to be having an epileptic fit. Two people can start a fight with each other. There are loads of ways, just remember how they do it in the next spy movie you see.

One of the best gimmicks around is the packaging technique. Once you have the target item in hand, head for the fitting room or other secluded spot. Take out a large piece of gift wrapping and ribbon. Quickly wrap up the item so it will look like you brought it in with you. Many stores have their own bags and staple the cash register receipt to the top of the bag when you make a purchase. Get a number of these bags by saving them if you—

make a purchase or dropping around to the receiving department with a request for some bags for your Christmas play or something. Next collect some sales receipts, usually from the sidewalk or trash cans in front of the store. Buy or rip-off a small pocket stapler for less than a dollar. When you get the item you want, drop it in the bag and staple it closed, remembering to attach the receipt. This is an absolutely perfect method and takes just a few seconds. It eliminates a lot of unsightly bulges in your coat and is good for warm-weather heisting.

A dummy shopping bag can be rigged with a bit of ingenuity. The idea is to make it look like the bag is full when there's still lots of room left. Use strips of cardboard taped to the inside of the bag to give it some body. Remember to carry it like it's filled with items, not air. Professional heisters often use a "booster box," usually a neatly wrapped empty package with one end that opens upon touch. This is ideal for electrical appliances, jewelry, and even heavy items such as portable television sets. The trick side can be fitted with a spring door so once the toaster is inside the door slams shut. Don't wear a black hat and cape and go around waving a wand yelling "Abracadabra," just be your usual shlep shopper self. If you can manage it, the trick side just can be an opening without a trick door. Just carry the booster box with the open side pressed against your body.
Briefcases, suitcases and other types of carrying devices can all be made to hold items. Once you have something neatly tucked away in a bag or box, it's pretty hard to prove you didn't come in with it.

squatter stories...

...and so he was fine. he was a gnarly old man, he was kind of funny though, eh. yeah. "if i ever catch those guys i'll fuckin, i'll fuckin kick their fucking heads in."
yeah, we stayed there for about a month, and stayed at -----'s house.
we get oil, we get flour, we get pasta, we get gourmet shit, we get avocados .just everything, eh. fuckin awesome. coles supermarket
this is hobart? where about's is coles? is there just one coles in hobart?
there's two coles in hobart ... oh, the other one's closed down now, there's one further out I think. but the one in hobart, they don't lock it and you just jump in and take all the bullshit off the top all the bags and stuff and all the good stuff is at the bottom. you get all the junk food, eh. we got two full shopping trolleys (they locked it that night) so we jacked it up and snuck in. we got two full fucken shopping trolleys full of chocolate. dove chocolate and pavlovas and all this other yummy shit.
i didn't touch much of it cause it fucks me up.
when you dumpster, are you vegan?
i used to be vegan for a year but I'm not now. i'm not too choosy about what i eat. but i won't buy it.
i sat on an organic farm for 6 months and it was kind of different, eh. but i find that it fucks my sinuses up.

The SUWA's show is a radio programme broadcast every Friday between 11 and 12am on 3CR - 855am on your melbourne community radio dial.

The show endeavours to

- raise issues connected to social security, unemployment and related issues from an anarchist point of view
- expose the lies and attacks on the waged by case managers , politicians etc as well as the guilty rich's charity rackets and the capitalist media
- publicise the homeless who take direct action and squat, and organisations and ppl working to support them in their struggle
- talk with prisoners and mental patients whose lives continue to deteriorate with increased drug abuse, pacification, physical restraints, deaths in custody and police shootings as well as privatisation and systematic corruption.

SUWA also covers the "big picture", looking at developments and actions overseas by the rich like the World Bank, politicians and religious bigots and real opponents: the anarchists, squatters, wobblies and others.

SUWA is proudly DIY. Not sponsored by any government, religion, corporation or charity; nor patronised by professionals or so-called experts.

There are a couple of ppl who have been the mainstay at the show for over 10 years and while others have come and gone they have been there every week (bar the occassional picket/demonstration) to bring you news and views from around the world.

If you interested in helping them, or keen to have ppl across the greater Melbourne region hear the sound of your voice, contact the show via 3CR.

Suwa@hotmail.com
www.xchange.anarki.net/huelga/suwa
c/o 3CR, PO Box 1277, Collingwood 3066,
Melbourne.

squatter stories...

Flux people house project
Pohara, Aotearoa

one summer a group of people squatted a deteriorating concrete house on a cliff top overlooking the ocean at the top of the south island in NZ. we spent the summer camping on the site and working to detourn the house and express anarchist principles through architecture (to detourn something means to look at the parts, change them around and recreate them). we wanted to deconstruct boundaries, fuck with ideas like inside/outside, private property/public space, temporary/permanent.

because we were near a watercourse, the land was part of the queen's chain and legally ppl can camp there temporarily...so we made ours a 'temporary' structure and the place became a mutant house/tent, with plastic roof and windows.

vege's were planted inside and the lounge floor was gravel, a bed platform and storage space were built. we mostly rebuilt the house with materials from an old quarry site next door.

the house was for "flux-people"...modern day nomads, pirates, travellers. a space to sit in the evenings, drink red wine and discuss our concepts and ways to express them. we had to think of ways overcome the problems that came up. sometimes our designs didn't work as well as we thought they might, or our lack of materials presented a problem.

it was a fantastic summer...we swam every day, worked in the warm sunshine, ppl visited to look at what was being done, and stayed to work with us. we became involved in the local community and got heaps of moral and tangible support from them. at the end of the summer, when most of the people working on the project had left, the council had the house bulldozed to the ground.

A Little Bit About the Law

This article is intended only to provide a general outline of the main legal issues around squatting. The law is not clear and squatters cannot usually afford legal costs to challenge it. Also, your legal situation always depends on your particular circumstances. If you have any hassles with the law, you will need to contact your local Community Legal Centre or friendly lawyer for proper legal advice.

Squatting is NOT illegal. It is not a criminal offence to occupy a house without the owners consent. Squatting is a civil, a legal dispute between citizens. A criminal matter is a legal dispute between the State (the police) and the citizen. A civil matter usually leads to the payment of compensation, but a criminal matter leads to a criminal conviction and a criminal penalty, ie. fines, community work or jail.

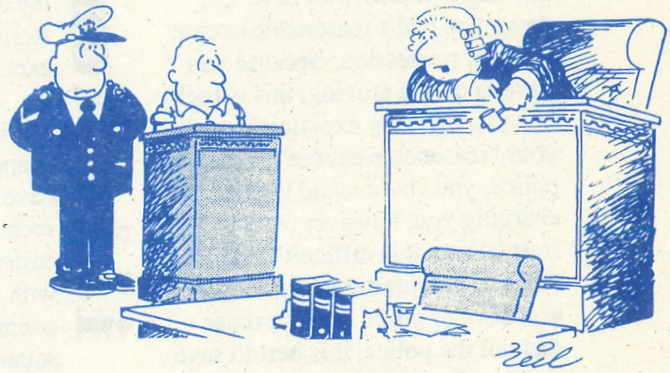
Legally, squatting should be a civil matter between you and the owner. The owner can take civil action against you for eviction and compensation. In this situation, the police should not need to be involved unless there is a threat of violence or a breach of the peace. However, in practice, the police are frequently involved.
Squatting - taking direct action over homelessness - directly challenges the notion of property, ownership and use of land. Squatters must keep in mind that this kind of political action may come to the attention of the police, the armed wing of the ruling class property owners.

disable the

It is easy to squat and avoid doing anything that will lead to criminal charges, provided you know the types of criminal offences that the police may try to charge you with. Arrests of squatters are not common, most owners and some police will just want you off the property. It is only in the case of resistance or when you come across the real PIGS that you will probably be arrested.

Most of the criminal offences that police use against squatters are what are called "street" offences or "public order" offences; these are usually minor offences that were historically designed to keep "undesirables" off the street, or to stop "the unruly classes", (the poor) spending most of their time in public space. These kinds of offences are littering, loitering, offensive behaviour, obstructing a highway, etc.

When attempting to squat, that is before you have entered and secured the place, you could be charged for a number of offences. 90% of convictions for crimes are the result of confessions so they usually have to catch you in the act. Remember that the penalties listed are MAXIMUM only, handed down for the "worst case scenario"; for minor infringements in situations of homelessness and the recession, the fines are low, and the court can impose bonds, community based orders, suspended sentences, etc - but remember it is THEIR law and THEIR court, not ours!



"The court will adjourn while I establish who, exactly, is the criminal."

CRIMINAL OFFENCES

Criminal damage: Intentionally or Recklessly causing damage to another's property. Unless caught in the act, or unless you admit to it, it is difficult to prove any damage was caused by you, especially if the place was empty and others have entered and vandalised the property before you squatted it. To be safe, it is best to repair any damage done (whether by you or others) as soon as possible so it can't be pinned on you. Maximum penalty: 7.5 years imprisonment or $90,000 fine. Criminal damage could range from breaking a window to burning down a house, and the penalty is imposed accordingly.

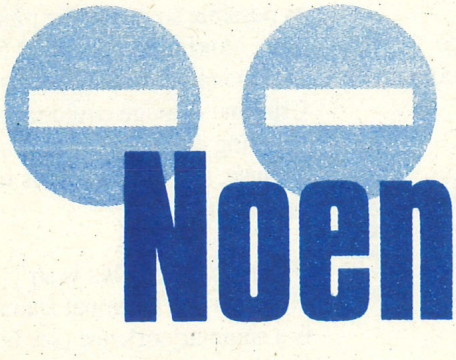
Wilful damage: This is an alternative to Criminal Damage. It is a summary offence (see below). Maximum penalty: 6 months imprisonment or $2,500 fine.

Possession of implements with intent to commit a burglary: This is when you have been caught with tools, but there has been no burglary or they can't prove it. However, the police must prove you were "intending to steal, assault someone inside the house, or commit criminal damage". Squatting does not come within these three situations, however the police could possibly use this charge against squatters. It is an indictable offence. The main way to avoid any risk of being found guilty for this charge is to not admit to anything! Maximum penalty: 3

A Little More About The Law

years or $36,000 fine.

Possession of house breaking implements: This is an alternative to the above charge. It is a summary offence. It is easier for the police to prove, as the police don't have to prove any "intent". Once they have proved you were in possession of the "implements", you have to prove you had a reasonable excuse for their possession. Because you have to do the proving, this is tricky one to avoid. By explaining your "reasonable excuse" to the police, you could avoid them charging you, however once you start talking it is difficult to refuse other tricky questions. Although you have to prove lawful excuse and not the police, it is best to save your explanation for the court!
Maximum penalty: 3 years or $36,000 fine.



Being found within the precincts of a building without lawful excuse: This is another one where you have to prove your lawful excuse and not that the police have to prove you have an unlawful excuse. The courts have said that trespass on land is not a crime and so there has to be some unlawful or criminal nature about you being found on premises. It is supposedly intended to punish behaviour linked to a criminal purpose or that it "violates community standards of decorum and tranquillity that is likely to put occupiers in fear." Attempting to squat empty properties for emergency housing should not fit this definition.

illusion

Maximum penalty: 3 years or $36,000 fine.

While actually squatting there a few offences to be aware of:
Being found within the precincts of a building without lawful excuse: Much harder to prove when you are actually squatting because you are the occupants.
Residing on a property is surely an excuse for being on the property.

Wilful Trespass: This law was changed in 1998 and the changes have yet to be tested in court. It seems that the changes make it easier for squatters to be charged with this offence. This is a common offence for evicting squatters.
The old law was used when a squatter had been told to leave the property by an owner (or their agent) and that person refused or failed to leave. If you left within a reasonable time then no offence had been committed. What a reasonable time meant depended on the circumstances, but it would seem it only covered the time you need to gather and secure your possessions. The new law is that you are not allowed to enter the property without permission from the owner or occupier. If you have a reasonable excuse for entering without the owners or occupiers permission, that is a defence to the charge. Unlike the old law, the police don't need to get the owner or occupier to tell you to leave, you have to prove that you have the owners or occupiers permission. But, as is discussed below, squatting a place gives you "occupation" of that property and therefore you may be able to argue that you don't need the occupiers permission as you are the occupier!

engage

Maximum penalty: 6 months or $2,500 fine.

RIGHTS IN DEALING WITH THE POLICE
Should the police become involved, it is important to understand your basic rights.

You have to give your name and address (of the squat!) if the police suspect you of committing an offence, or they believe you may have information which will help them in an investigation of an indictable offence. You should ask what offence they suspect you of or what offence they are investigating. You are also entitled to ask them for the name, rank and station. You can be fined up to $100 for refusing or giving a false details.

You do NOT have to go to the police station unless you have been arrested for a crime. You must be told what crime you are being arrested for, unless you resist arrest. If you are not told what you are being arrested for, the arrest is illegal and you can claim compensation for false arrest and false imprisonment.

The police cannot search you before an arrest unless they believe you are carrying drugs or offensive weapons. However, the police will always search you if they want.

If you are arrested for an indictable offence, the police have the following rights:

If you are over 15 years old, the police can now fingerprint you. They do not have the RIGHT to force you to have your photo taken, but there is no power to stop them taking a photo without force.

You are entitled to a call a friend, relative or lawyer BEFORE you are questioned. Do not let the police select a lawyer for you, they will call a police-friendly lawyer. Insist on calling a lawyer that you know or someone from Legal Aid.

Still More About The Law

You do not have to answer any questions AT ALL, either before arrest or during interrogation. You must be informed of your right to remain silent during interrogation. Once you speak, you cannot go back to being silent, it will go against you in court. Nothing can go against you in court for remaining silent to EVERY question (but give your name and address of the squat for bail!!). Sometimes it *is* best to answer police questions, but you shouldn't unless you have been given legal advice to do so.

BAIL

Once you have been questioned, the police will decide whether to bail you or remand you in custody. You should be allowed bail if the police are fairly certain as to your identity, and you don't have any prior convictions for failing to turn up to court. If you don't have ID this could be difficult and you'll have to verify it some other way. The police may hold you if they think you will re-offend (re-squat, which isn't an offence!) which may be likely for squatters who can't prove alternative means of accommodation- a friends place may have to do!

If you are not bailed you must be brought before a magistrate within a "reasonable" time, which should be no more than 24 hours. If you are picked up on the weekend, you are entitled to be brought before a bail justice, which is like a JP.

EVICTION

The proper legal way for an owner to evict you is to apply to the Supreme or County Court for a writ of possession. The choice of Court depends on the value of the property. Property valued up to $300,000, the owner goes to the County Court. For property worth more than this, the owner goes to the Supreme Court. The procedure is the same for both courts. The application to the court is called a *Summons and Origination Motion for Summary Possession of Land*, and it is issued with an Affidavit (a written sworn document) verifying the ownership of the property and the fact that the property is now in the unlawful possession of others (namely you). A copy of the Origination Motion and Affidavit is attached to a conspicuous part of the property within 21 days of the Court hearing. You do not have to attend and it is usually useless because unless you can establish a legal right to the possession of the property, (a contract of sale, a gift transfer etc), the Court will make an order that the owner has possession of the property. The owner registers the order with the Sheriff who enforces the order, breaking in and forcibly evicting you. Legally there is nothing you can do in this situation, except if the Sheriff uses unreasonable force to evict you. (unlawful assault). The benefit of this procedure is that it at least gives you 21 days to find a new place.

the reality

The cost and time delay of a court hearing has forced owners to evict using the Wilful Trespass charge.

You will be told by the owner to leave or face arrest. If you leave nothing will happen. If you don't you will be arrested. It is not clear whether the police can break in to arrest you for Wilful Trespass. They probably will, but stall them by claiming this is forcible entry unless they have a court order (this may make them more determined to break in).

Having arrested all on the property, no-one will be able to prevent the owner from throwing your possessions out on the street and secure the place. You are then faced with no home and a criminal charge to defend.

Another avenue for eviction is if the property was under a tenancy agreement with the previous occupant within the last 12 months of the owner attempting to evict you. In this case, the owner can go to the Residential Tenancies Tribunal for an order of possession. This doesn't cost much and it is a fairly quick procedure. The Tribunal will make an order of possession and the police will carry it out in the same manner as a Supreme Court order. Unlike the court order, the squatter can force the owner to enter into the same tenancy agreement if s/he would suffer greater hardship than the landlord (usually there must be some connection between the squatter and previous occupants). This is worth a try if you are desperate to keep your home and are willing and able to pay rent, but rarely works.

A last avenue for eviction is for the owner's to physically evict you themselves. Legally they risk committing unlawful assault. The law is not clear, and needs a legal challenge, but it may be that an owner cannot physically evict someone in "possession" of the land, and has to rely on a court order.

SQUATTERS TITLE

The law prevents an owner evicting a person in possession of the property after 15 years from the date of possession (called "adverse possession"). Once you have occupied a property under adverse possession for 15 years, you are entitled to have your name entered on the certificate of title. You will need to prove your period of

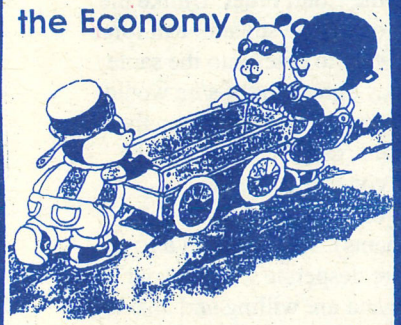
possession and you cannot claim adverse possession against Government land.

Possession is where you occupy property with intent to exclude everyone, including the owner, from the land (done by living in the house and changing the locks). On vacant open land, it is usually done by "enclosing" or fencing, the land. Establishing this kind of "possession" gives you a legal right to the property against all other people (including the police) except the owner. This occupation" or "possession" may also provide a defence to the new Wilful Trespass offence (see above).

One way of proving the date of your possession is to lodge a caveat on the certificate of title. A caveat is an order stopping the property from being sold, mortgaged, given away etc. unless the "caveator" is given 30 days notification. A caveat costs $59 to register with the Titles Office, and all people who are on the title are notified. You should get a copy of the title certificate and find out who is on the title. To avoid alerting a bank or the owner, only lodge a caveat if there is no mortgage and the address of the owner is the same address as the squat. That way, the notification of the caveat will go to the squat and there will be no risk of anyone else finding out.

A caveat also has an advantage when dealing with the police. If they come, show them the caveat and tell them that you have a civil dispute with the owner. It is likely that the police will leave you alone in this case. ——— END.

Sharing is Bad for the Economy



Every time you share the economy suffers. Our economic philosophy requires that endless amounts of commodities be created and destroyed at an ever increasing rate to help our economy grow and profits boom.

When you share rich people suffer.

So for your country's sake, Don't Share

FEDERATION SECRETARIAT
GPO Box 1139K, Melbourne, 3001
11th floor, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000
Tel :
(03) 9602 4949 Fax : (03) 9602 4948

GENERALIST LEGAL CENTRES

BRIMBANK COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE
822 Ballarat Road, Deer Park, 3023
Tel : (03) 9363 1811 Fax : (03) 9360 4851

BROADMEADOWS COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE
180 Wickford Street, Broadmeadows, 3047
Tel : (03) 9302 3911
Fax : (03) 9309 6538

CASEY CARDINIA COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE
42 Claredale Road, Dandenong, 3175
Tel : (03) 9793 1993 Fax : (03) 9794 9521

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE
115 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat, 3350
Tel : (03) 5331 5999 (client assistance)
(03) 5331 5010 (admin) Fax : (03) 5331 8239

COBURG/BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY LEGAL & FINANCIAL COUNSELLING CENTRE
PO Box 353, Coburg, 3058
78 Bell Street, Coburg, 3058
Tel : (03) 9350 4555 Fax : (03) 9354 2433

DAREBIN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE
80 High Street, Northcote, 3070
Tel : (03) 9489 6321 (main)
(03) 9489 6276 (admin) Fax : (03) 9489 2663

EASTERN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE
PO Box 466, Blackburn, 3130
1st floor, 60-64 Railway Road, Blackburn, 3130
Tel : (03) 9877 5777 Fax : (03) 9894 2133

ESSENDON COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE
13a Wingate Avenue, Ascot Vale, 3032
Tel : (03) 9376 7929 or (03) 9376 9150 (admin line) Fax : (03) 9376 9748
E-mail : essclc@vicnet.net.au

FITZROY LEGAL SERVICE
PO Box 297, Fitzroy, 3065
124 Johnston Street, Fitzroy, 3065
Tel : (03) 9419 3744 Fax : (03) 9416 1124
E-mail : enquiries@fitzroy-legal.org.au

FLEMINGTON AND KENSINGTON COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE
PO Box 487, Flemington, 3031
40 Bellair Street, Kensington, 3031
Tel : (03) 9376 4355 Fax : (03) 9376 4529

FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE
220 Nicholson Street, Footscray, 3011
Tel : (03) 9689 8444 Fax : (03) 9689 8155

GEELONG COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE
257 Moorabool Street, Geelong, 3220
Tel : (03) 5221 4744 Fax : (03) 5229 0117

MONASH OAKLEIGH LEGAL SERVICE
18 Beddoe Avenue, Clayton North, 3168
Tel : (03) 9905 4336 Fax : (03) 9905 1113
E-mail : r.hyams@law.monash.edu.au

MURRAY MALLEE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE
PO Box 1870, Mildura, 3502
136 Langtree Avenue, Mildura, 3500
Tel : (03) 5023 5966 or (1800) 243 002
Fax : (03) 5021 3344 or (03) 5022 1065
E-mail : mmcls@ruralnet.net.au

NORTH MELBOURNE LEGAL SERVICE
1st floor, 504 Victoria Street, North Melbourne, 3051
Tel : (03) 9328 1885 Fax : (03) 9326 5912
E-mail : rgocher@vicnet.net.au

PENINSULA COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE
DX No 19953, Frankston / Chatsworth House, Suite 2-4, 431 Nepean Hwy, Frankston, 3199
Tel : (03) 9783 3600 (public line)
1800 064 784 (toll free)
(03) 9783 2411 (admin line) Fax : (03) 9770 5200
BENTLEIGH BRANCH DETAILS
82 Brady Road, Bentleigh East, 3165
Tel: (03) 9570 8455 Fax: 9570 8466

SOUTH PORT COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE
341 Coventry Street, South Melbourne, 3205
Tel : (03) 9690 9144 Fax : (03) 9696 7228

SOUTH WESTERN COMMUNITY CARE
PO Box 404, Warrnambool, 3280
26 Fairy Street, Warrnambool, 3280
Tel : (03) 5563 0630
(1800) 672 473 (women's service only)
Fax : (03)5563 0669
E-mail : swccfairy@ansonic.com.au

SPRINGVALE LEGAL SERVICE
PO Box 312, Springvale, 3171
5 Osbourne Avenue, Springvale, 3171
Tel : (03) 9562 3144 Fax : (03) 9562 4534

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE
161 Chapel Street, St Kilda, 3182
Tel : (03) 9534 0777 Fax : (03) 9525 5704

WERRIBEE LEGAL SERVICE
Cnr Duncans Road and Watton Street, Werribee, 3030 (Rear Old Shire Building)
Tel : (03) 9741 0198 Fax : (03) 9741 5739

WESTERN SUBURBS LEGAL SERVICE
30 Hall Street, Newport, 3015
Tel : (03) 9391 2244 Fax : (03) 9399 1686

WEST HEIDELBERG LEGAL SERVICE
20 Morobe Street, West Heidelberg, 3081
Tel : (03) 9458 3777 Fax : (03) 9458 1067

contact details for the federation of community legal centres... call them or stop in for free legal advice.

SPECIALIST LEGAL CENTRES

CONSUMER CREDIT LEGAL SERVICE
1st floor, 11-19 Bank Place, Melbourne, 3000
Tel : (03) 9670 5088 Fax : (03) 9670 7205
E-mail : cclsvic@vicnet.net.au

CONSUMER LAW CENTRE (Incorporating Public Interest Law Clearing House)
GPO Box 2786Y, Melbourne, 3001
11th floor, 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne, 3000
Tel : (03) 9629 6300 Fax : (03) 9629 6898
E-mail : info@consumerlaw.clcv.vut.edu.au

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION LAW ADVOCACY SERVICE
GPO Box 1139K, Melbourne, 3001
11th floor, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000
Tel : (03) 9602 4877
or (1800) 651 275 (Freecall - Victoria country only)
or TTY (03) 9602 4135 Fax : (03) 9602 4979

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND INCEST RESOURCE CENTRE
139 Sydney Road, Brunswick, 3056
Tel : (03) 9387 9155 (counselling and referral line) 9.00am - 1.00pm Monday to Friday
(03) 9380 4343 (admin) 9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday Fax : (03) 9380 4373
E-mail : dvirc@vicnet.net.au

ENVIRONMENT DEFENDERS OFFICE
Level 1, 504 Victoria Street, North Melbourne, 3051
Tel : (03) 9328 4811 Fax : (03) 9326 5687
E-mail : edovic@vicnet.net.au

HIV AIDS LEGAL CENTRE
C/- Positive Living Centre, 46 Acland Street, St Kilda, 3182
C/- Victorian Aids Council, 6 Claremont Street, South Yarra, 3141
Tel : (03) 9525 4455 Fax : (03) 9534 2708
E-mail : None

JOB WATCH
28 Queensberry Street, Carlton, 3053
Tel : (03) 9662 1933 (information, advice and referral) or 1800 33 1617
(03) 9662 9458 (admin, education and publications) Fax : (03) 9663 2024
E-mail : jobwatch@vicnet.net.au

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION LEGAL SERVICE
PO Box 4310, Melbourne University Post Office, 3052
Frank Tate Building, Melbourne University, Parkville, 3052
Tel : (03) 9344 8687 Fax : (03) 9347 9307
E-mail:janetn@union.unimelb.edu.au

MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL CENTRE INC
Level 4, 520 Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000
Tel : (03) 9629 4422
Fax : (03) 9614 0488
E-mail : mhlc@vicnet.net.au

REFUGEE AND IMMIGRATION LEGAL CENTRE
22 Hopkins Street, Footscray, 3011
Tel : (03) 9279 0118 Fax : (03) 9279 0137
E-mail : RILC_VIC@frl.fl.asn.au

SRC LEGAL SERVICE
Latrobe University, Bundoora, 3083
Tel : (03) 9479 2469 Fax : (03) 9479 3021

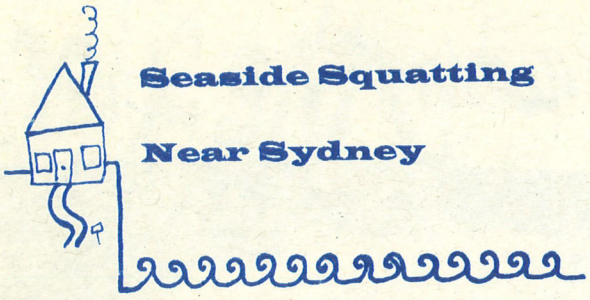
TENANTS UNION OF VICTORIA
PO Box 234, Fitzroy, 3065
55 Johnston Street, Fitzroy, 3065
Tel : (03) 9416 2577 (advice - Statewide)
(03) 9419 5577 (admin - Statewide)
Fax : (03) 9416 0513
E-mail : tuvfitz@vicnet.net.au

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE
PO Box 218, Fitzroy, 3065
6 Alexandra Parade, Fitzroy, 3065
Tel : (03) 9419 3888 Fax : (03) 9419 6024
E-mail : vals@vicnet.net.au

VILLAMANTA LEGAL SERVICE
6 Villamanta Street, Geelong West, 3218
Tel : (03) 5229 2925 or (1800) 014 111
Fax : (03) 5229 3354
E-mail : villegal@ne.com.au

WELFARE RIGHTS UNIT
154 Sackville Street, Collingwood, 3066
Tel : (03) 9416 1111 (advice only between 2pm and 5pm Tuesday to Friday)
(03) 9416 1409 (admin only) Fax : (03) 9419 3552
E-mail : wruvic@vicnet.net.au

WOMEN'S LEGAL RESOURCE GROUP
3rd floor, 43 Hardware Street, Melbourne, 3000
Tel : (03) 9642 0877 (admin)
(03) 9642 0343 (advice)
(1800) 13 3302 (toll free)
(03) 9642 0334 (TTY) Fax : (03) 9642 0232
E-mail : justice@vicnet.net.au



Seaside Squatting Near Sydney

Taken from "Rent Freedom; The Squatting Lifestyle" a social history feature produced for radio by Paul Callum

Through the 1930's and 40's, a number of seaside squats sprang up at the Kernel Peninsula on the southern Side of Botany Bay, just south of Sydney. Squatters there like Bernie Clarke made the most of their circumstances.

It was an opportunity for self-sufficiency, to carve out a spot and grow lots of your own food. Spring and summer were a blaze of colour with Bottlebrushes and Christmas Belles in bloom, and the pounding surf offered it's own feast.

There were about 35 shacks, some built into the cliff face, 100ft above the water. One of the finest squats Bernie ever saw was built by a chap called Bert Adamson, who first started going out to the Kernel Peninsula in about 1913. Slowly, each week and each month he collected driftwood and carved stone to build an amazing 2-bedroom place with a dining room and kitchen, bathroom and outside w.c.

There was an incredible sense of community among the squatters and a real code of conduct. No one stole anything. There were regular patrols to control and monitor bushfires and the track to and from the community was always maintained.

No one expressed any ill-feeling towards the squatters, rather they were respected for their ingenuity and productivity...building, collecting and gardening. The situation brought together a particular breed - a very independent lot, made up of people who were inclined to share what little they had. People in the squats all along the coast would get together at the Cronulla Pub every once in a while to chew the fat.

The beginning of the end came when Minister for Lands, a man called Lewis, decreed the squatters had to go. Everyone except old Bert, who lived out his life in his house on the cliff.

There was another Bert, (Sculley) who had a shack at Little Shelley Beach on Gibbon Point. He would collect driftwood and load up his horse and dray and cart it into town to sell. Came back one day and his house was gone. There were a lot of incidents like that and things started to get tricky when the squatters resisted. Most of the squatters were determined they weren't going to move. They were in good health, had plenty of good food and even the 70 and 80 year olds decided the government would have to remove them bodily. More often than not though, their evictors waited until they had gone out, perhaps for supplies, and then demolished their homes while they were away.

squatter stories...

A World Heritage Embassy was established in Fawkner Park, near North Ltd headquarters in St Kilda, Melbourne. The site was squatted since early July 1999 and on August 8, a party was held at the park. I talked to a chap who'd been at camp every night since the beginning and had a few things to say about the experience.

So you're squatting the land. Do you know who owns this park?
Yeah, It's Crown Land. It's the people's land. It's managed by the Melbourne City Council.

And have you got permission to be here?
No, no they want to get us off, but we've resisted up to now.

How have you gone about doing that?
Called the media. They said they were gonna come and confiscate all our gear so I stacked all the stuff in the trailer, all our important stuff and then we called the media. All the cameras were out there, big film lenses you know, and when they come across to evict us and they spotted up (all the media that were there), you know then they backed off. We had to do the same this morning. They wanted the forces to take the tent down in this weather, so again all the gear in the car in case they were successful, and we stood all around the tent and we said you're not gonna to take it down. So he said I'm going back and seeing my superior. And I said, yeah you do that and off he went and he never came back!

Fantastic! So how long have you been here now?
About a month.

Oh, this was after the world heritage decision is that right?
*Yeah, that's right. We came here for that reason. We actually intended to be here a few days before and then have a camp down to the day, you know, like 5,4,3,2,1 but we didn't get really organised to do a proper countdown. **

Okay, so why are you here?
We're protesting against Jabiluka mine.

*** The issue of mining in the Kakadu National Park was brought before UNESCO by a representative of the Mirrar ppl about 12 months ago. Kakadu has long been listed as a World Heritage park and this status and the park itself is endangered because of plans to mine for uranium. Following a visit to Australia the UNESCO Advisory Committees agreed. However, the Australian govt. asked for a 6 month deferral. After 6 months of hard lobbying UNESCO balked at going against the wishes of the Australian state and recommended the park not be listed as endangered. The decision is due for review in 18 months.*

Women reclaiming the silent

MEND

RICHTRACIST
WHO BASHASIANS

ANARCHY FREEDOM.

OLD
GROWTH

BULLSHIT

CLASS
WAR

FUK'N
OATH

HOW MUCH DID YOU PAY FOR YOUR LIFESTYLE PUNK?

FOR GET
3 W
DEBT.

SHUT

HULA OR DIE

right girl you got power!
EXPORT HOWARD NOT URANIUM
PUNK NOT FUNK
MARX ™
JESUS ™
STOP RACSIM FULL
HUNGER = PAIN
THIS INFORMATION
RIPE INSTEAD
ENJOY
KE, TRAM, TRAIN OR WALK - NO TO PETROL NO TO WAR
Right or Wrong I am alive
OFF
Wake up now! get active NOW!

squatter stories...

Squatting...

Still a rocky road.

In Sydney in the 80's there was a huge squatting movement. Most squats were owned by the Ministry of Housing, which was too bureaucratic to do anything with them. There was also a huge area mainly in Glebe, Woollomaloo and Piermont - where the RTA had bought heaps of homes to build the "Eastern Distributor" Road Tunnel. But it was about 10 years from when they bought them to when the road was actually built.

I was living in a squat in Woollomaloo where there were two full blocks of squats and alleyways linking them all. There was a huge old naval store on the beach called "The Gunnery". Heaps of ppl from industrial punk bands were living there holding exhibitions, parties and gigs. They were there for two years before getting evicted, when the place was bought by the state govt. and set up as an artist exhibition space.

The band "The Reels" squatted the old 'Gladstone Hotel' on Williams street for 7 1/2 years. There were about 15 ppl living there and they'd bricked up the whole bottom floor sealing in windows with glass bottles and cement so you could only enter via the fire escape on the first floor. They had their food trip together and had a roof top garden.

After a lot of the Glebe, Woollomoloo and Piermont squats were evicted the Newtown squatters started. At the top of King st. was a squatted building called Alpha House. Though it was eventually evicted two good things came out of it. The first was Alfalfa House, which still exists as a wholefoods co-op, but in a different location. The other was the Alpha House Housing Co-op for artists. IN the late 70's the govt. began funding collective housing schemes. Some ppl applied for this and by the time they were evicted they had become eligible. Obviously the funding wasn't forthcoming, but they fought for it and got govt. housing under the same name but in a different location.

The Piermont squats were really well organised. At one time they made their own park by converting a vacant lot, ripping up the concrete, shifting rubble and planting stuff. The non-squatting locals wanted to keep it even after the squats were evicted, but in typical style big brother big brothered it. At the same squat they drilled holes in all the spoons, to stop smack being used there.

In '86 there were only a few squats left. To evict one of them, a gang of evictors and a removal van turned up with no warning. They stood in all the doorways so we couldn't block them. As soon as ppl were out of the top rooms they smashed the floors, toilet, plumbing and power box to pieces.

I'd been moving around inner city Sydney with a collection of N.Z. punks and we kept getting booted out of squats or having the locks changed on us. Some stayed in buildings owned by the RTA, but the next door neighbours (also squatters) didn't like us, so they firebombed the building. We had nowhere to go and were in this pub when a woman came up to us and asked if anyone needed a place to stay. I said I did and she looked at me and said "but you're a boy- I'll have to ask". About an hour later she came back and told me I could stay in the front room but I wasn't allowed any further into the house. "But what if I want to go to the loo?"

As there were heaps of other squats nearby she said I'd have to use the toilets there. So I was adopted as a 17 year old homeless punk by a household of NZ dykes.

Conversatio ns With A Seasoned Squatter...

I'll tell you the story of The Brown Warehouse as I understand it, a building that had been empty on and off for fifteen years, by my time in '97. On Johnson Street there were three shops that were rented. These shops were maintained by the landlord and they were paying off their mortgage in a front company, and the back they just left. As soon as they paid off their mortgage, I think in about May '99, they sold the whole lot for about a million something.

jesus!

They were happy to sit on it, 'cause it was more trouble to do it up to rent out than to have it as an open house, which is what it became. In the late eighties in was successfully squatted and called the Empress, it went for two or three years. After that it was pretty much empty...a bit of an open house and in '98 there was a Forest Embassy held in Exhibition Gardens next to Parliament House. A lot of people came over from Gippsland, and a few who turned up earlier squatted the building to accommodate the ppl coming over...and afterwards some remained and others came and it was continually squatted for about a year.

They tried to evict us and it went to court. We thought we were going to leave and then at the last minute we sort of got a bit of a flurry together and 8 or 10 of us who were willing to be forcibly evicted and arrested barricaded ourselves in. So the others and other supporters were outside for the rest of the morning and the sheriff turned up and didn't evict us in the end. Two weeks later they turn up at about 7am with a few cops, maybe about 30 of them, and evicted the people who were there.

Did that include the 10 people who had barricaded themselves inside?

No, because there were less people in the building at the time. So, I was still living there, but I was working and had already left. Someone came and got me about 9am, and when I arrived all our stuff was out in the street. It was all over. They came with a big angle grinder to cut a hole through the roller door. (eventually the 35 officers, from the sheriffs dept. and the Melbourne police gained entry through a front window) It was a bit over the top, the building was brick, so it was pretty sturdy, but they went through the hardest entrance, they could have kicked in any one of the doors in about 10 seconds. Security guards sat round for two weeks, 24 hours a day, until it was sold. Some of the people went to Fabryka...

Where was that? What's that?

Fabryka was on Alexandra Parade, near the Hoddle St bridge, and that had been squatted for three or four months before the end of TBW, it was a huge place and maybe half the people went there and the rest scattered. About six months later the owners and cops showed up, gave them plenty of time to leave and that was the end of that community really. That was really the scattering of the group that had come together at the time.

Tell me about the culture at TBW.

I think TBW was squatted by youth, as most things are, so the things people first wanted to do, was to put on gigs. So we put on perhaps three weekly gigs and it became an alternative to existing pubs because it was really cheap to get in, we had no overheads, you know. Ppl could crash in the public areas after gigs and there was a distinctly political bent to everything we did.

Anarchist?

Yeah. But other things carried through...the issues punks are interested in, which would be anti-fascism, animal rights and stuff. There was a rave once, which raised the money for this 'zine to be put out. There was an Anarchist Black Cross weekend (the prisoner support group). When we were going to be evicted, that was a pretty good push for us. We had become isolated and ghettoised from the local community by the makeup of the people there, and we didn't really know the people around us. We got on well with the Single Mothers Support Group, they gave us cups of tea during the resist. I think they're in Ross House now. Right near the end, we had an open day, and lots and lots of people turned up. It should have been done the first day, but people expected hostility from the neighbours I think.

Do you think that's because you were putting on loud punk rock gigs?

That was part of it. I think it was also partly because the ppl who ended up there, weren't particularly in a good way. We were either emotionally or financially in a bad way.

And those are the sort of people who go squatting.

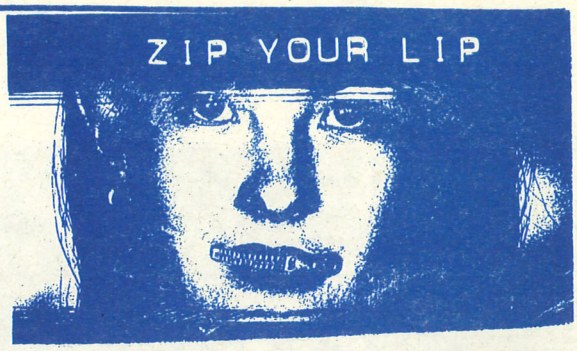
Yeah, you start off with a group of people who are.... trying to do things they think are a good thing to do. Now some of them are good in only a very limited sphere, like putting on a punk gig, and some of them were much bigger, like supporting political prisoners and trying to oppose gentrification.

Do you think that on a personal level, ppl got a lot out of organising like they did? You know, for a group of ppl to come together, occupy a space that's been left derelict, put in a lot of time and effort to get it up and functioning. They're articulating ideas that are often hard to express, like anarchism and mutual aid. That helps ppl sort their shit out.

Yes, it does in that the ppl who stayed around for awhile, they wanted to take responsibility for something. They didn't want to end up on the scrapheap like they had been, they wanted to deliberately create something and run it as a collective thing. Some ppl thought about putting on gigs, others thought about how to feed large groups of ppl (food not bombs), or trying to compost in a place with no garden and doing things...as a collective...

Can I interrupt, you were about to say "for themselves" and then you changed that to "as a collective", why was that?

Yeah...because they wanted to relate to ppl and be able to work together, and sometimes it's because they had unusual interests, such as being so anti the powers that be that they couldn't work with a lot of other organisations, so they had to hang out



NO THIS LEAFLET IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND HAS NO COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS

together. It meant ppl had to try and sort their shit out. Also, it lead to isolation.

Why's that?

I think because there was too much emphasis on the activities that didn't involve the wider community. But whatever happened, it was better to have done it than not. You find out what you can and can't do.

Can you tell me why you think it's important to relate with your community? You make the distinction between the community you lived among and the community you networked with because you were setting up punk gigs, you know, friends and stuff. You seem to be saying it's more important to hook up with your neighbours that with ppl who are in your "community" because you have similar interests.

I'm talking about "community" in terms of expanding your horizons. You know in a big city it's easy to remain solely within your own interest groups, and in the end that's too narrow, too specialist.

I think it was a crucial time for the ppl in the warehouse and all of the scenes that it touched, because it was deliberately political and open. As ppl became better and better at what they were doing and happier they became stronger. Also it really did link across a lot of things and all those links got stronger. But then ppl become easier targets.

Maybe that's part of the reason the squatting movement is more underground now, because people are keeping their heads down so they can keep their house. If you're hanging out big banners that advertise what you're doing, you're not going to last as long, and also because there's not that movement, that support network, or that culture. Like I said it ebbs and flows...

That's why we hear about all the big places in other cities, because ppl live in one place and have a big centre somewhere else for all the other things they're doing, having banners out and stuff. It's always worth pushing (to get that happening again here). I mean if you don't push through the door and stand inside and wait until someone throws you out, you don't know whether you can have it. If someone wants to give it a go, they should give it a go, 'cause you never know do you? It might be a success, maybe not.

How do you define what's a success? Something that lasts a long time?

Yes. Something that lasts at least 6 months, somewhere that's good to live in as well. There's no point living in some burnt out shell, where you're trying to patch it up and half way through someone throws you out. I think squatting is different in this country than in other countries where it's known. England, Germany, America, Spain, Italy (etc) all these places are different, so...

On what basis, what do you mean?

Germany, England, Berlin and London particularly had a large number of houses for ppl to live in. Primarily for people who were new to the city and either had contacts with the squatters who were there or who were desperate to go and squat and they got the houses and held on to them for many years. Long enough that when they were evicted they had plenty of time to get another place and then squatted that for years. So you had an ability to continue the groups that came together. In London at it's height, there were maybe 40,000 squatters.

What period are you talking about here?

Well, dying out, probably towards the end of Thatcher's era, when she forced the councils to sell off crap houses and that's what they had, they had crap houses that they couldn't officially house tenants in. There were thousands of them particularly South and North-east London. But yeah, they were forced to sell off these houses and that's what destroyed squatting, not the police.

In Melbourne and Sydney, people haven't held on to houses for any length on time, so you can't continue the communities that come together.

The other thing is the big squats, and they're a different move, they aren't for living, but primarily to organise social events because people are either denied or feel alienated from existing resources. So, across places like Italy, Germany and Spain there are hundreds of groups who run social centres and manage to hold it together. I don't think it works as well if you try to combine the two.

Really, what makes you say that?

Well, you can get the feeling that people who live in them organise everything that they aren't really "owned" by the people who are outside them. In the [redacted] experience isolation. In Australia, with Jellyhead (in Sydney) Fabryka and TBW, that's what happened. I mean, it might work with a caretaker living in them.

Do you think it's possible to keep a place going for a long time here in Australia given the legal situation? There isn't the same kind of legal standing as there is in Europe.

No, that's true. Here we have imported and imposed... everything, and one of those things is the legal system There are a lot of places in Europe that are ex-army or ex-nationalised industry that are supposed to be public. They can really use the latent support of the people, as it were, to embarrass or pressure [the state] into actually giving them the land. [The state] can either make them pay a pittance or just hand [the properties] over...There were a couple of squats in Hackney where they used the media well and most of them got tenancies out of it.

When you say they used the media well, how do you think that works?

Well, because an eviction can be violent and really brutal, and you're on the inside and you're outnumbered. There's a feeling of desperation. If [the press] are on the inside it makes a big difference. When I was in the warehouse, as one of those 10 people, I was scared all the time. And yet I didn't expect the cops to do anything serious, but it's a scary situation.

What do you think of the distinction between political and nonpolitical squatting? Do you think there is a difference?

I think all squatting is political. Because it's illegal, [actually, it's not] and private property and bureaucracy is put above everything else...and squatting automatically questions that. It says if you have a commission flat that's empty for 6 months, this is meant to be for people, I'm going to live here...I agree to the conditions, I don't ask for any insurance or anything like that, but you won't let me have it because of your bureaucracy, your insurance rates, whatever. Just leave me alone. But they don't because private property means they have the right to chuck me out. That carries across to all commercial buildings and private dwellings and land. It goes back to when Australia was settled.

Plenty of protest, no sign of sheriff

By JASON KOUTSOUKIS

Squatters, some of whom have occupied a disused factory in Wellington Street, Collingwood for more than a year, are expected to be evicted by the Sheriff's Office today.

Yesterday, as they waited to be evicted, a large group of squatters and protesters stretched across Wellington Street outside the factory, blocking traffic near the intersection of Johnson and Wellington streets for more than an hour.

When no one from the Sheriff's Office arrived at 10 am, the squatters were told to expect an officer to arrive at the factory about midday.

But when that deadline passed without event, the squatters were told they would be evicted sometime today.

Police said the protests were made without incident and that no one was arrested.

The factory, which has been vacant for the past 15 years, became home to about 15 people in late 1994.

The new residents built a kitchen inside the factory and attempts were made to make as much accommodation as possible available to homeless people.

Small concerts were also staged regularly by the group inside the factory.

A spokesman for the squatters, Mr James Douval, said that three weeks ago an officer from the Sheriff's Office arrived at the factory with a Supreme Court order demanding that the squatters vacate the premises.

According to Mr Douval, no attempt was made by the factory's owners to contact the squatters, even though they had expressed a willingness to start paying rent for use of the property or at least contribute to rate payments.

"The people here have worked hard to make this place their home for the last 18 months and then all of a sudden a sheriff turns up with a Supreme Court order demanding they get out," he said.

"It still has not been established exactly who the owners are, but as far as the residents are concerned, all they want is somewhere to live and the owners are making no attempt to negotiate with us," Mr Douval said.

A spokesman for the Sheriff's Office said yesterday that no attempt had yet been made to evict the squatters, and he could not comment further on the issue.

How were those early squatters treated, do you know?

If the squatters had enough money they bought the land back off the crown , but before that they were tenants of the land, the same as Aboriginal ppl. As far as the crown were concerned their relationship to the Aboriginal ppl was irrelevant, it was their relationship to the crown that mattered. Perhaps the difference between public and private is you can use it for weddings, parties, christenings, wakes, gigs... all those everyday ordinary things... except that because it's publicly squatted it has a political character and it attracts ppl who feel that breaking the law is of a lower priority than winning ppl's rights. They believe that their ethics are higher than the law

That's pretty arrogant ha?

It is. It's extremely arrogant that anybody would put their ethics before the state, but in the end that's what we're doing.

I think one of the biggest things that stops ppl going squattingis the idea that they could be kicked out in a week. How do you think the ppl involved, the home life and the physical house itself is effected by that insecurity?

mmm...(silence)

How were you affected by it?

In the end you lose a long term plan, but your everyday life isn't effected. So, you're less likely to do any major maintenance, knock down a wall, re-landscape the garden for something you'd like to look at for the next 20 years.

But if you want to do something like put in a veggie patch, put up a fence with materials that don't cost too much, re-plasterboard that room, then it's worth it. You end up not doing those really long term things, which is why a lot of squats look tatty. If you're not having to spend all that money on rent, it frees you up to spend it on other stuff, like fixing the place up. Some ppl go somewhere that's really unliveable, but they're willing to accept that lower standard. I was financially a lot better off.

How did you get started squatting? Did you start in London?

Yeah, I did. I read about it, heard about it, I had the Squatters Handbook (UK version)

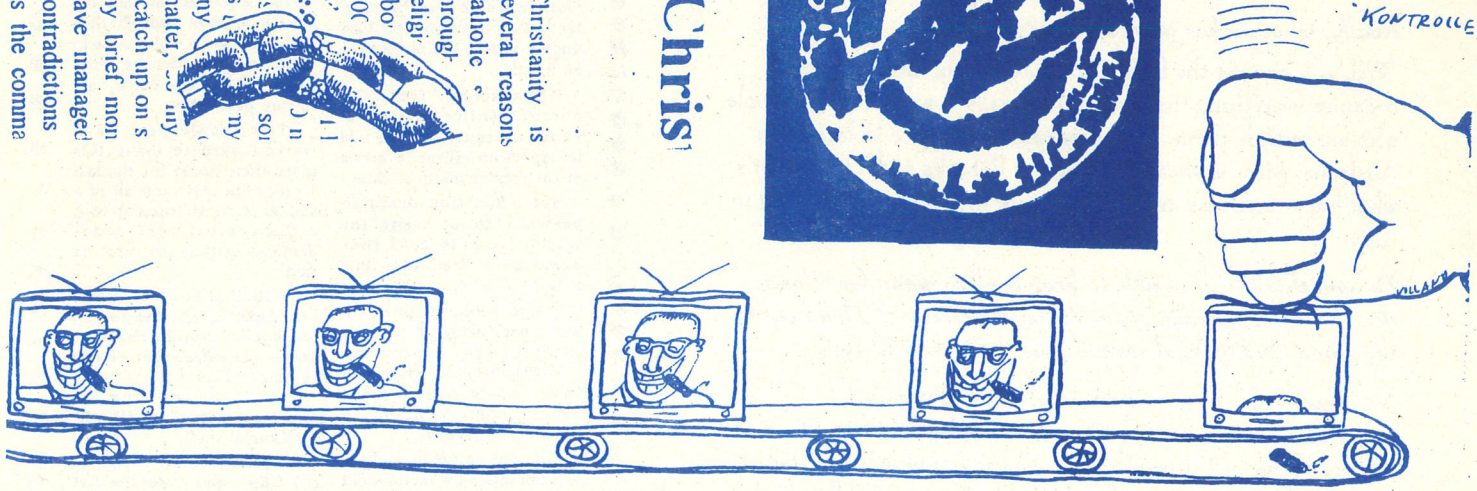
You were a keen young anarchist...

I was a keen young anarchist. We were living in London, where there's a lot of pressure on space. I didn't know anyone who did it, but I had a mate who thought it was a good idea as well. He was an art student, and he was very thin and timid, but he was determined that it was a good idea, and I was also determined. So, yeah, let's do it. One of our main motivations was that we were quite scared. We were scared of the cops coming to the door and pushing us around, calling us nasty names. We had that added impetus to get over our own fear. So we went out and tried a few places, found one we liked and moved in. The neighbours told the council straight away, so we were only there for about 4 months, but there was a place just down the road, so we tried that. He knew some other art students who lived across the way, so we climbed over their fence and through the back alley. We were looking around, it looked pretty good, when we heard this car draw up so we quickly peeked through the front window and the cops had driven up, and all the neighbours were hanging around the front so we legged it out the back, over the back fence, ran down the alley, over his friends fence, ran into their kitchen and pretended to be drinking cups of tea. So...we managed to get away with it.

What was your favourite thing about squatting?

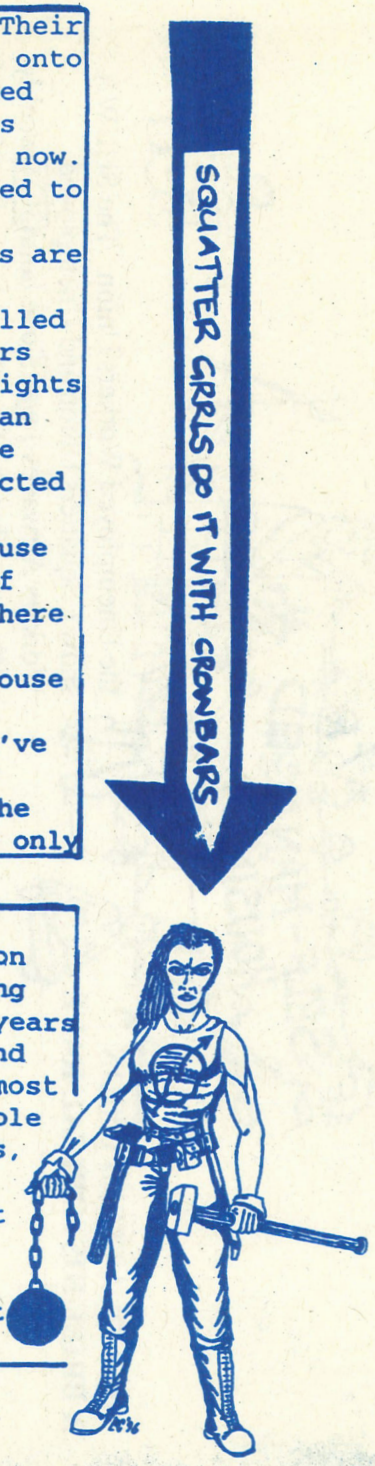
I think I enjoyed doing things myself, if you do it yourself, it's all your own achievement. I mean if you put a lock on really crappily and it's a real bastard to open, but you did it yourself... I like that, and I didn't get the opportunity to do that leasing, I was always just handing the money over. There are pluses and minuses with squatting, and a lot of us are pushed to squat because we've already got the minuses where we're living. So you might as well go with the pluses.

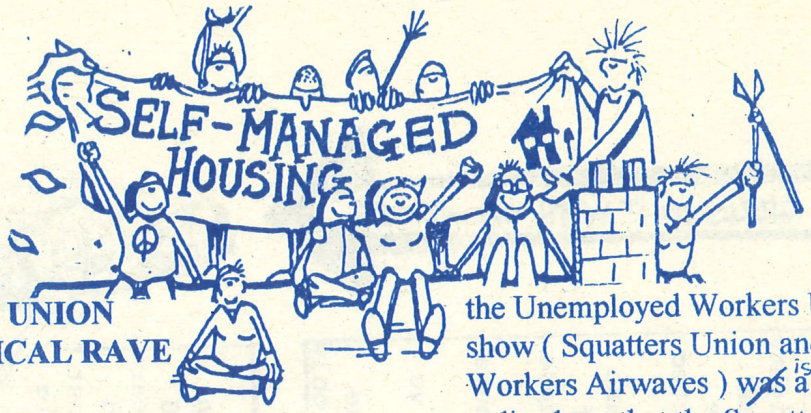
Chris



WELLINGTON ST. WAREHOUSE
THE SQUATTED BROWN WAREHOUSE IN COLLINGWOOD, MELBOURNE
The home to a community of about 20 people and an autonomous gig space was evicted a few weeks ago towards the end of May. We occupied the building for 10 months. It had laid empty for 15 years, all electrical and plumbing pipes had been gutted. We worked hard for months building our kitchen, office, fixing leaky rooves and installing poly pipes for toilets and sinks. We had working bees and built a bar and a stage donated by the Black Star Club, along with a great P.A. for the gigs (thankyou Ian Cook).

The Warehouse became a focus for the punk and anarchist community, organising a squatters info network, supporting Food Not Bombs, East Gippsland environment centre, benefit punk gigs raising money for Anarchist Black Cross, Black Star Club, a Destroy Moscow Circus demonstration, and international and interstate bands. It was fucking excellent having an alternative to pubs. The gigs were non-profit to us, the door charge was always affordable, the beer at the bar was $1.50 a can. There were no muscle bound hero bouncers at the doors to turn you away for having no money or I.D. There were stalls with anarchist books and music, and cheap vegan food. It was a big shock when the notice for a Supreme Court hearing in two days to evict us was pushed through the window. At Court we were given 3 weeks to get out. The Sheriff's department was to do the job. Everybody got to work organising a 'Resist the Eviction' gig to rope in support from friends. A few days before the set date we worked on barricading and building and making banners. We dragged a huge lounge room, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom on to the footpath outside and set it up as our new home. Heaps of friends and supporters camped outside for days, while 10 people barricaded themselves inside. The eviction day came, and the coppers didn't (probably because of the media), protesters outside lugged furniture across Wellington Street, blocking off the whole street, in demonstration of our community space and home being sold out and yuppified for some business suit with more money than soul. The Sheriff's department didn't show for another three weeks and in that time we moved a lot of stuff back inside and had an open day for the public with Barricade Books stalls, a squatting display, music, food and ids space. The cops showed up on a Wednesday morning (34 Sheriffs, 10 cops) with plenty of cop cars to block off the street. We didn't expect them at the time, there were only seven of us. It only took them 20 minutes to destroy our steel barricade with angle grinders and sledge hammers, barging their way into our home, giving us one minute to get out. We sat on the footpath in front of the Brown Warehouse and made coffee with the gas burner. Friends and the media showed up and we watched the Bastards Just Do Their Job and move our home onto The pathway and boarded the building up. It's being developed right now. Everybody has dispersed to different areas of Melbourne, a lot of us are stating at another squatted warehouse called Fabryka. The squatters here run a Cafe two nights a week with cheap vegan food and beer, and the building is to be evicted in 3 months.
I chose to squat because there are thousands of empty buildings out there just rotting away. I enjoy being able to house myself and repair a derelict building. I've learnt a lot of handy wimmyn skills along the way. Squatting is my only option. It would be stupid of me to rely on the Ministry of Housing when it takes 3 to 6 years just to get a flat, and the rental market is most of the time unaffordable for low income earners, and the bias of Real Estate agents makes it almost impossible. Squatting is the only solution, and the best one.



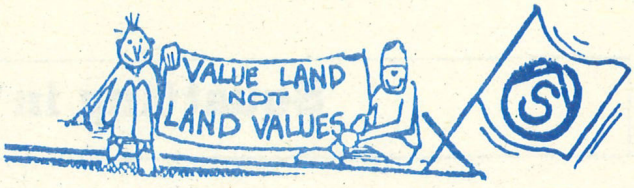


SUV

THE SQUATTERS UNION
A BRIEF HISTORICAL RAVE

If there were a prize for the most troublesome organisation to the ruling class in Victoria for the period beginning in the eighties and ending in the early nineties, then the Squatters Union of Victoria, would have no trouble in winning it. When it came to backing up ideas with action, the Squatters Union left ideological groups like the socialists looking about as revolutionary as a history reading circle in a student lounge. A tour of action by the down trodden, a defiance by example more than words, the Squatters Union was an organisation that clearly made its own history. While the lefties, weighed down with their dead canonised leaders hanging around their necks, tried to recruit more uni students to pronounce their dead words, the squatters organised and took direct action. Wave after wave of spaces were claimed, occupied and even physically defended against the capitalists and their lap dogs the pigs, effectively freeing up areas and facilities for the community. 'Housing is a right not a privilege.' Declared the newspapers and radio airwaves put out by the Squatters Union. Solidarity and mutual aid with all those who chose to oppose the capitalists and take control of their own lives, combined with an innate distrust of the state and all those who would build a new one, was the key to the unions revolutionary nature.

The main centre of Squatters Union activity for many of it years was the squatted Fitzroy Fire Station, renamed the Community Fire Station. This building was opened to and shared with many other revolutionary and political organisations who also believed in solidarity, mutual aid and direct action. The Union ran a full time office giving advice to anybody seeking information on how to squat and the locations and individual histories of the hundreds of empty houses and buildings on fill. ' Don't let houses rot, dob in an empty,' read the posters, booklets, graffiti, stickers and radio carts spread about the city by the union. The Squatters Union was fiercely class conscious and worked closely with the Unemployed Workers Union. The SUUWA show (Squatters Union and Unemployed Workers Airwaves) ~~was~~ is a one hour 3CR weekly radio show that the Squatters Union shared with another completely autonomous organisation,(the U.W.U) This was an example of the non-sectarian working nature of the union (incredibly, this show still exists and can be heard Friday mornings, about eight years after the end of the two unions that originally ran it). Centres of Squatters Union activities opened and closed through out inner city Melbourne often in the form of the mass squat. Generally, the squatters opened them and the government and free enterprise closed them, but the periods in between were most constructive. Mass squats tended to attract sizeable groups of squatters that then formed strong affinities with squatter from other areas. It was not uncommon for a typical mass squat to open a squatters café (food by donation) and put on bands or poetry reading nights once a week, or to provide creative work and meeting spaces, not only for other squatters but for the wider community as well. Buildings claimed by the community in the years of the Union included warehouses, a café, wheat silos, an orphanage, a church, a sports centre, a fire station, a hotel, a hospital, hundreds of houses and more. The Squatters Union also had information links with squatting organisations through out the world and worked in solidarity with other organisations, it supported, and/or was supported by, in deed the workers of the Shelter Victoria, the Tenants Union, the workers of the Builders.Labours.Federation the Public Transport Workers' Union, the Unemployed Workers Union, the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation and many others (to be further researched by the keen in the dozens of Squatters Union newspapers available from Barricade Books research library). This was the type of living revolution that contrasted so sharply with the typical academic, 'it's all in my head, I read it in a socialist newspaper' revolution. Indeed, The Squatters Union was the type of uncontrollable organic community dreaded by all the franchised supermarket-like organs of the 47 different homogenised varieties of the most ideologically



correct Marxist-Leninist-Trotskyist impersonators and their armchairs from uni. For this reason (failing to recruit any members of the union), the Trotskyists, like the capitalist media, define everything different to them selves as the enemy and regularly attacked the Union, ideologically of course. Naturally, the squatters found the trots to be a sauce of amusement in comparison to the regular waves of attacks from the police, real estate agents, developers and their hired thugs, the ministry of housing, the media, the government, in fact much of the state. The cops especially had it in for the Union and their attacks were the least ideological.

With all that said, one may well ask, where is this union today? Perhaps one answer would be that it beats in the hearts of all those who were once involved and in the hearts of so many that were so positively effected by it. Perhaps it gurgles and flows beneath the barren new economic landscape, perhaps it's waiting to rise again with renewed vengeance among the next generation, like a flood around the drained and swampy old foundations of all the new corporate state housing developments of the next millennium. Time will tell. One thing is for certain, the old union has already left many experienced weevils in the system. Eat the rich.

squatter stories...

Monash Tent City I think it was in '97.

What were you doing?

Tent City against upfront fees

And we camped out there for four months...occupied the front administration entrance on the main lawn and just had monster tents. A lot of people left their place to live there permanently. There were 4 or 5 of us at any one time. And a lot of other people at one stage, we had like 30 tents.

That's wild. It's squatting I reckon, you know like occupation of public space.

Yeah, well blockades are kind of like squats I guess.

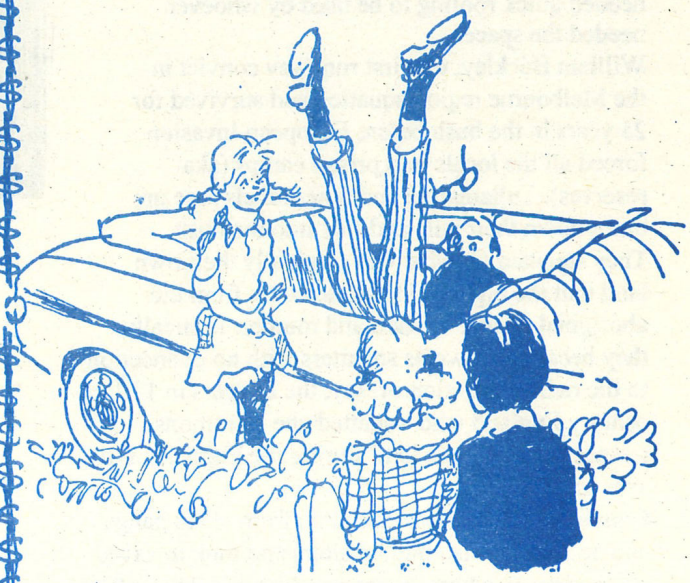
Especially when you look into months and stuff. Like these guys were 6 months, hardcore.

In East Gippsland?

Yeah, there's this one point in a two-month period, they did 55 actions. An action a day just about. 3 in the morning before the loggers, putting constructions up, getting the cops in...

Without delay, she seized the fine gentleman about his fat waist and threw him up in the air, twice. Then she carried him at arm's length to his car and threw him into the back seat.

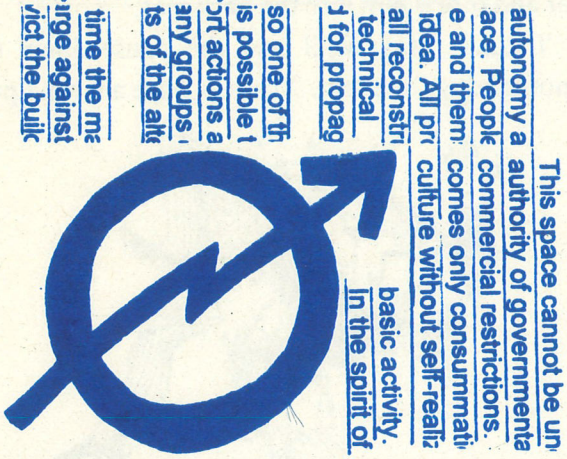
'I don't think we'll pull the house down till another day,' she said. 'You see, once a week I pull



down houses, but never on Fridays, because then I've got the weekly turning-out to think of. So I generally vacuum the house clean on Fridays and pull it down on Saturdays. It's always best to have a routine.'

Squatting in Melbourne

Squatting is the direct action answer for the homeless. From empty property and land take-overs to rent strikes against useless landlords, there is always 'a roof over your head' to be found.



WHAT IS THIS SYMBOL?

There are many versions of where and when it originated. It is universal for the struggle goes up, down, but always up again: we squat, they evict, and we squat again, because the social question of being homeless does not end in the present capitalist society.

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Aboriginal people (aka Koories in the South East of Australia, Wirrunjeri in Melbourne) built shelters of a temporary nature to protect them from the weather. They also used caves, piled up stone into permanent walls that only needed quick roofing to be used by whoever needed the space.

William Buckley, the first runaway convict in the Melbourne region squatted and survived for 25 years in the bush before European Invasion forced all the locals into prison camps (aka reserves). Tullamarine and other rebels rose up, burnt down their jails and fled into the bush. They squatted on what was originally their own land that the big farming bosses took from the aboriginal people by theft and murder. Ironically they became known as squatters with no connection to the radical tradition of, say, the Diggers in 17th century England who 'squatted' the Commons, trespassed on 'public land' during the English Civil War and Republic.

Convicts and Koories on the run from chain gangs and authorities also built shelters and took to caves using them as a base to survive the bush. They often went on to become bushrangers and stole back from the Government and the rich. The games of children to build cubby-holes in the ground, to improvise huts and tree houses are all part of this long-held desire to run your own life, and create your own space.

WHAT, NO LANDLORD?

Uprisings of convicts and, later, wage-workers, always ended up with a siege of their no-go areas and 'rebel camps' eg. The Eureka Stockade. During the 1890s and 1930s Depression, after the Boer War, WWI and WWII, Korean and Vietnamese wars, the working poor, ex-soldiers and unemployed were squeezed into slums by the Government and landlords. They went on rent strike or squatted empties, resisted evictions, and sometimes went on to construct squats in the bush, up the mountains and by the sea. So-called 'ferals' who occupy bush forests to stop clear felling/wood-chipping of our native forests are the latest in a very diverse his and herstory of direct action by the homeless. Many who squat now have to keep a low profile due to jealous rent payers, mortgage sufferers, property developers intent on moving yuppies in, making the areas expensive and 'trendy'. Nazi idiots and cop harassment are other problems. But in modern Melbourne there have been many 'in your face occupations'. Eg the 1970s saw F 19 Barricade in what is now Alexander Parade in Collingwood/Fitzroy when locals barricaded the street and turned over cars to stop the Freeway. The squatted ex Fire Station in St Georges Road, Fitzroy, was home to the Squatters and Unemployed Workers Unions in the 1980s.

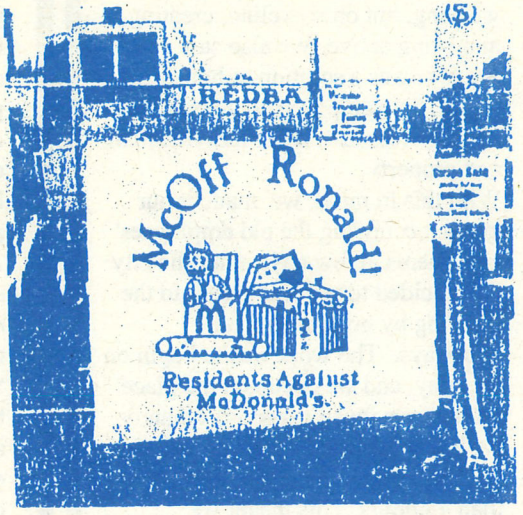
The Blind Authority™

MANIPULATION CORPORATION

http://www.adelaide.net.au/~mungbean/blind.html

WHAT, NO BOSS?

The tactic of workers occupying workplaces - of locking out the boss, has occurred in all industries. For example, in January 1990, tram workers blockaded the streets with trams and occupied their tram depots for 33 days in a fight to keep conductors jobs. On December 1998, 18 workers at Roadmark (makers of traffic signs) in Tullamarine occupied their factory after their boss pissed off with their pay. (They eventually got 50c back for every dollar owed them). In July 1999, kitchen staff in the Box Hill Hospital occupied the kitchen. The Richmond and Northlands Secondary Colleges were occupied to keep the schools going for their communities in the nineties and were run conjointly by the parent and teachers. The Brown Warehouse in Wellington Street, Collingwood was a brief resistance to inner city yuppification; but got evicted by cops in 'Operation Squat'!

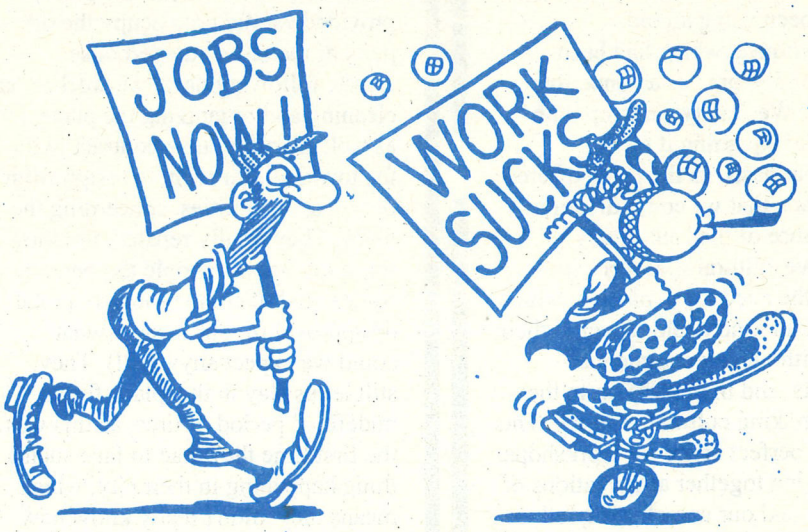


The Fitzroy Swimming Pool was occupied to prevent closure and 'development'. In one protest, locals filled the empty swimming pool with people to overflow out into the surrounding streets. Workers have also set up pickets - 'peaceful protests' - and occupied the street space outside their workplaces. One such action was at the ACI glass dispute when a shipping container was welded to metal gates and filled with concrete to stop scabs. Cops on horseback with batons were driven back after workers in other adjoining factories marched in the street to the site.

In April 1999 wharfies - members of the Maritime Union of Australia - were evicted from their wharves and replaced with scabs. They and their supporters had their own kitchen, the Food not Scabs kitchen, caravans, a first aid hut, a 'community art sculpture' of welded metal which doubled as a barricade to stop scab containers or trucks entering or leaving. Thousands turned out to resist the rabid bosses, private security thugs, media hype, federal and state government politicians, court orders as well as police threats to evict them.

At Xmas in 1998, 80 locked out workers from the Australia Dyeing Company squatted the park opposite their workplace. They set up a caravan and huts as a base to stop the scabs. They won after 70 days. For 96 days residents opposed to a McDonalds occupied the streets outside a 100-year-old home in Pascoe Vale threatened with demolition. It took 200 police and 80 private security to keep them out and finally demolish the house. A community picket took place in Brunswick in July 1999 when locals protested against the closure of the medical section of the clinic. The decision to close the medical section has now been reversed due to this direct action.

The occupation of work place or street (especially with community support), is a great tactic for workers in struggle, just as squatting makes sense for the homeless. Do it yourself and research your local 'underground' developments of the past, who knows what you'll discover?



Les Tanneries

Maloka is a French anarchist collective based in Dijon. We organise concerts (mostly punk/hardcore/ska bands but also tekno, ragga... sound-systems, or anything independent and political), weekly vegan restaurants, a mailorder catalogue (records, books, fanzines...), some lectures/debates and some demonstrations from time to time. We also run an infoshop, along with the mailorder thing, and a small alternative library.

We own a place in Dijon's city center, which is fairly small, but which hosts most of the activities listed. We've been having this place for more than 10 years now, and it has become a nice anarchist center, which we share with other collectives: the CNT, le "Collectif pour des villes sans voitures" (Reclaim The Streets), "La Strumpetoj Ridegas" (an Esperanto group), both a feminist group and a pro-feminist male group. From these different groups came the idea of squatting a place that would be bigger than the one we already had, in order to do more activities... That's why the social center "Les Tanneries" was created.

Here's a brief summary of how it all happened... Maloka has regularly been organising concerts in squatted places. By the end of October 1998, we had been using an old slaughterhouse, which had been empty for 5 years, as a venue for concerts. We finally came up with the idea of squatting it on a permanent basis, as the place offered more space that we could dream of, and because of the lack of any alternative cultural space in Dijon. We felt the need for a place in which artists of all kind could develop their skills, without any commercial contraints and in opposition to the money-making cultural industry. This was the perfect space for workshops, for bringing together art, creations of any kind and our anarchist/diy ethics. We regarded squatting as a way of protesting in itself, allowing people to get introduced to another way of life, not based on consuming and working, but on recycling, creating, and being active. We also saw squatting as a solution to housing issues, being a powerful alternative to homelessness, sheer individualism and property.

With this in mind, we made it our home, occupying the old employees' apartments, a few days after the city had decided to prevent access to the building by bricking up all doorways. The work was to begin on Monday, and we occupied the place on the previous Friday. Fortunately, we knew the law was on our side, as we had been in the place for more than 48 hours. This meant we couldn't get evicted, at least not before having been to court. Anyway, we got ourselves prepared for the arrival of the police on Monday morning. We put a big banner on the roof saying "L'espace autogéré des Tanneries" (the autonomous space "Les Tanneries") and phoned the media.

Thanks to our phone-tree, quite a lot of people arrived and there were about 40 of us waiting for the police to come. The police came, along with some officials. Seeing that we had a serious cultural project besides our will to squat and that we knew everything of the legal aspect of the thing, they let us stay in the place, provided we did not occupy the other parts of the old-slaughterhouse.

On the following days, we worked at cleaning and organizing the place... as well as setting up a contract with the townhall, for them to resign from their responsibilities concerning the place. They finally refused, thinking this could incite people to open other squats, and of course showed a total disapproval of our means (what could we expect anyway?!). They still let us stay in the place for an undefined period of time, as this was the first time they had to face such a thing happening in their city, which means they didn't really know how to deal with it, and where quite embarrassed...

Unexpectedly, we got some really positive media coverage, both by the local TV and newspapers, which definitely helped us keeping the place, this way not allowing the council to act irresponsibly (like evicting us illegally...). We've also began to collect some signatures and petitions, to support the squat.

Anyway, we've been doing quite a lot of work in the place since it was first occupied. 10 people are now living in the squat.

Since the place was occupied, we've been organising hundreds of activities: some gigs, some art exhibitions, some debates/conferences (about love & sexism, work, animal liberation, political prisoners, etc...), some theatre shows, some vegan restaurants, as well as some independent-cinema broadcasts.

We've also been running a bar on Friday and Saturday nights when no gig, conference or other activity was scheduled. There's a rehearsing room downstairs for music bands to play freely and some workshops are up and running, like the reading workshop (political, poetry, stories, anything!), the photography workshop, the djembe workshop, the juggling workshop, the costume-making workshop, the theatre workshop... some other things are still to come, like a self-defense workshop, a tag/graffiti/painting workshop, a serigraphy workshop, and other projects we still haven't thought of... there's quite a large 'alternative' library, and there are always flyers and fanzines for people to take/read in the "main" room, which we try to make a comfortable space with sofas, tables, etc...

This squat is run according to certain principles based upon autonomy and a rejection of consumerism. We just want to get rid of profit, power and domination in people's relationships. Well that sounds a bit like utopia but we're trying to have a creative space for all. One can be involved in any activity or contribution to the squat if s/he cares.

We organise regular meetings (every 3 weeks) for all the people interested in participating in any way, in order to make decisions together. This allows us to share ideas about what to do, about the way things are running, etc... in a non-hierarchical way. This also allows people who want to get involved to come and make propositions, to organise activities on their own, using the place.

We feel really positive about this, since inciting groups or people other than us (Maloka, CNT, etc..) to get active on independent grounds was one of our initial goals. I would say things have been going really well... Lots of people have been coming since the opening, and we haven't suffered from too much harassment from the police. Some other collectives have also organized various events in the center, and we still have loads of new projects !

But there's one big thing: 'Les Tanneries' may be about to get evicted. The Council officially informed us that they wanted our leaving the place really soon so they can destroy all the area. This obviously includes our house/centre. After 11 months we believe that a lot of projects came true. Lots of people have been involved in all the workshops and it's been a rather refreshing experience, mostly at a personal level with everyone's own initiative. No apathetic consumers like commercial or institutional culture would encourage us to be.

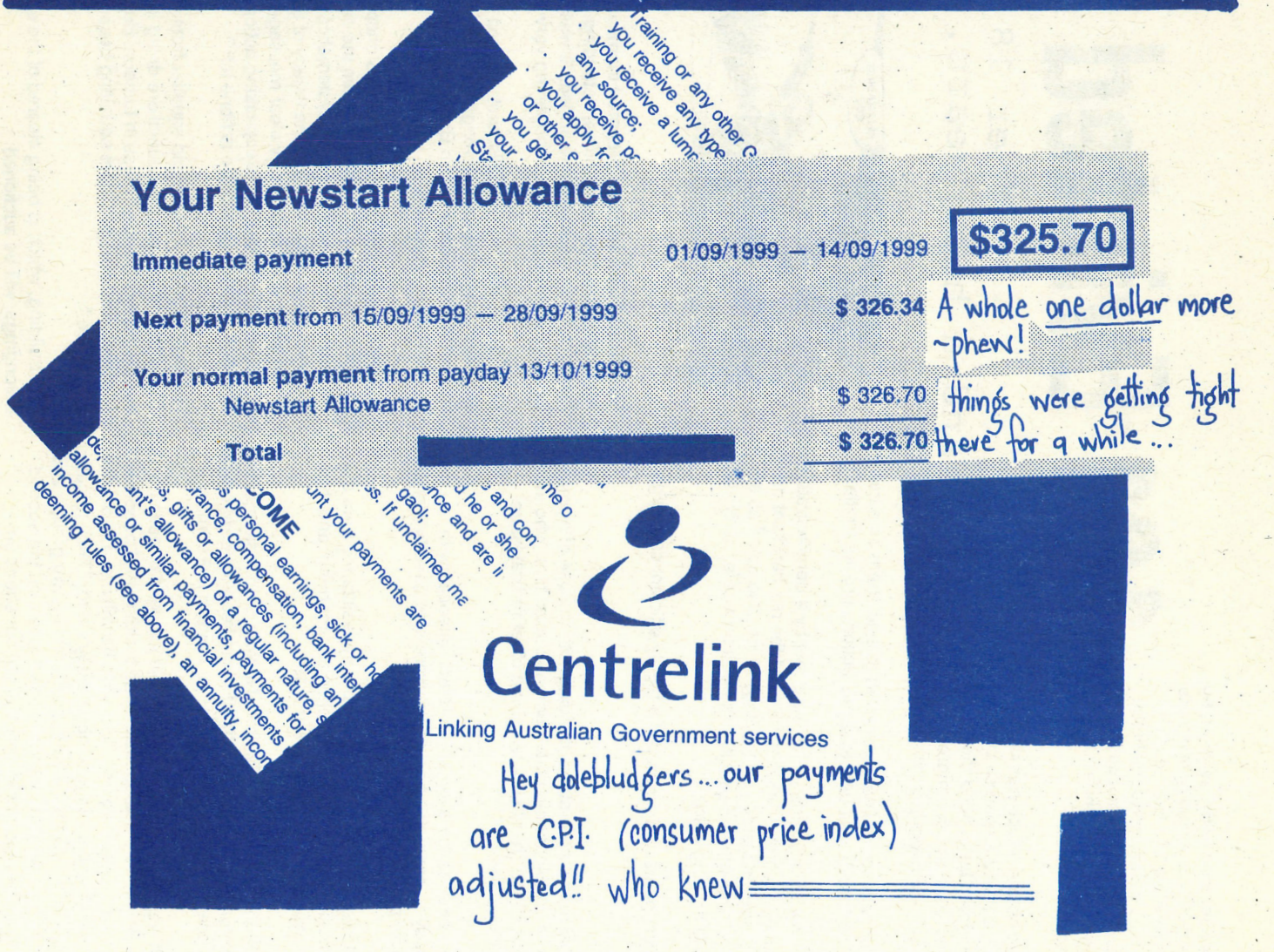
The council wants the building to be destroyed in 3-4 months time just because it's squatted. There's no project behind all that, they just prefer it to be a wasteland. And because we owe them nothing for our right to live, because we just need this place to develop our project, and simply because it'd be a major obstacle to our activities in general, we're ready to defend 'Les tanneries' against the Evil Empire.

We've been starting a support campaign, with hundreds of people sending some protest letters to the council, some petitions being spread, two funny, colored and musical demonstrations taking place in the city center, some mini-festivals being organised in the place, allowing people to visit the squat, to watch and take part...

We've also been receiving plenty Internet messages, and so has the council. At that point, we don't know yet as of who will win, but we are determined to fight for the alternative culture we've been trying to set, to fight against the council and its greedy consumerism, money-culture and power!

You can write to us, visit us, help us... but anyway, "they can't evict the spirit".

squat 'Les Tanneries' , 13-15 bd de Chicago 21000 DIJON, France.
phone: +33-(0)3-80770940.
here's a long-lasting mail address: Maloka bp 536 21014 DIJON CEDEX France.



121 Evicted

after 18 and a half years.

Six sheriff's bailiffs, assisted by a special-ist armed police force, entered the 121 Centre in Brixton's Railton Road shortly after 6.30am and successfully removed the seven remaining illegal residents.

The centre, which has drawn worldwide attention since residents barricaded themselves in to resist eviction more than seven months ago, was set up in 1981 as a collective.

Lambeth council has attempted to evict them on a number of occasions, but until today its actions proved fruitless.

At the last attempt, police were met by a demonstration of nearly 70 protesters who blocked the road and set up barricades inside the building, which also acted as an advice centre for squatters as well as a cafe, party venue and printing office.

Occupants had organised a highly efficient campaign from inside the three-storey building with the use of a website and newsletter circulated among supporters, who included anarchists, hunt saboteurs and other radical issue campaigners.

An emergency siren and internal defences with easy-to-assemble barricades were also used to maintain occupancy.

However, there was no sign of any resistance from the small group of residents woken this morning, and the building was vacated in minutes.

One squatter, Tom, 22, from Norway, said residents had become disillusioned with efforts to keep the centre open since police attempted their last eviction in February.

"It was so aggressive and people just kind of gave up. But they won't be able to secure the building and people will try and enter it again." Tom says he will move to another London squat. He described today's raid: "They forced us out of the building. There seemed to be two groups and the first one came through the windows on the second floor. They did not even let us put our shoes on."

The council said staff had prepared themselves for a fight, with more than 150 police officers standing by. It had, however, been a success, he added. "It was very successful, with everything happening very swiftly."

The bailiffs, with the specialist unit, entered the brightly-coloured building through windows on the upper floors, Chief Inspector Martin Bagg said. They met with no resistance, he added.

Lambeth leader Jim Dickson, who was once the victim of an office raid when 30 protesters from the centre stormed his council room, said: "We are systematically clearing up the borough and dealing with the legacy of the past. Our action today sends out a very clear message to the squatters - the council will keep taking action over squatted property until there is none left."

However, Kuru, a 24-year-old squatter from Brazil, said: "What the police and the council are doing is just adding to the problem of homelessness in London. But they won't succeed in stopping us from squatting because we'll just go elsewhere."

The building, which is being cleared of the occupants' belongings, will be auctioned.

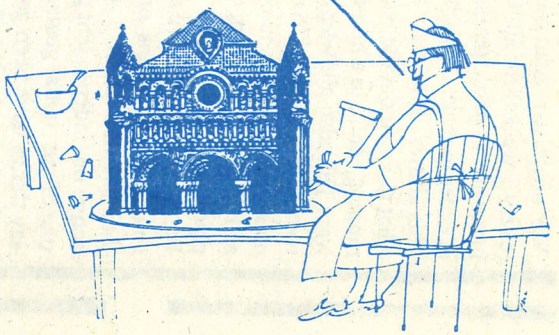
6-30am. Thursday Morning- A massive posse including armed police, a helicopter, 150 riot cops, sheriff's officers and a couple of brainless stooges from the council make their way through Brixton. Seizing Railton Road and all streets leading into it the goons smash their way into the centre through the first floor window. Within minutes the overwhelming forces of the Evil Empire (otherwise known as Slippery Jimbo's lackey's) take the building ending 6752 consecutive days of occupation.

Who wasted taxpayers money for this outrageous act? Who gloated over the eviction of one of London's oldest squat centre? Who is now going to flog off the building to further line their own pockets? Yes you guessed it- those Johnny Come Lately yuppies at the Lambeth council thats who!

Led by their weasely faced money laundering pal Michael D(odgy) Perrott, their man at Nelson Bakewell property speculators the council continue to sell off the thousands of houses that they have abandoned for decades. Many of these houses have been occupied by people who, fed up with the lack of decent social housing and council corruption, took it upon themselves to end the wastage by a succession of greedy and incompetent Lambeth administrations. Having maintained and repaired these buildings they are now being repaid with a kick in the teeth.

What do you get out of this? Not much judging by the continuing school, library, community centre and playground closures. What do the councillors get out of this? Quite a bit judging by their 100% pay increases and the piles of money they are giving out freely to their yuppie developer mates.

that's right ma wee darlin's~ you can make whatever you will of your lovely squat...
a nice home, a gig space, social centre, a little tea shop, a centre for subversive revolutionary activities .... right you are then.



thanks to 121 net site and south london stress.

121 CENTRE

121 Bookshop was squatted in January 1981 by a small group of people living in the South of London. An ad had appeared in Freedom (a London anarchist paper) about opening an anarchist centre in South London, and a few people responded to the call.
An Afro-Caribbean bookshop called Sabaar had been the previous occupants and a few of us had used their address to do prison support work at Pentridge. We kept in touch with them, and when they moved further down Railton Road, they informed us the building was now empty. Originally a few guys moved into the premises to secure it and started to live upstairs. After the bookshop had been open a while it was decided to use the place as non-residential, with hopefully a café on one of the floors upstairs.
One of the main activities 121 did was to act as a contact point for squatters and working class people in the area. A regular magazine called *The Crowbar* and a squatter's café were two popular ventures that took place in the early eighties. A library called The Kate Sharpley Library (named after a South London anti-militarist) was started there as well as an active anarchist feminist group, which put out two magazines and had workshops on self-defence.
After being in the bookshop for a while a friend at work mentioned that there was a basement in the building where a printing press has been once upon a time. It was a great adventure discovering a trap door and a very unstable set of steps down to a quite large area. This area was later used for clubs and money raising ventures. Of further interest was that when the cops broke into the shop a few years later supposedly looking for explosives, they didn't check out the basement as it had a trapdoor hidden under lino.
So many magazines/benefits/groups/pamphlets/gigs came out of the centre it would be hard to list them all here...it's enough to say hundreds. Tens of thousands of anarchists from all over the world visited/stayed at 121 and hundred of public meetings have been held there. Black Flag was distributed from the premises every two weeks for quite a few years. I remember those folding days with Albert, Leo and 'old John' (now sadly gone), Paul, Pippa, Jessica, Alex and whoever else we could rope in. Also at that time *South London Stress* was published from 121. Some people found it hard to understand that the same people putting out Black Flag were behind *South London Stress*...
121 existed for 18 years without any grants from either church or state funding bodies. It existed wholly on voluntary support. Some of the people who were involved right at the beginning won't be forgotten: Ken, Peter, Guy, Irish Mike, old John, Albert, Jessica, Yossi, trendy Phil, hippy Phil, Vera, Scottish Andy and so many more...
Even though this centre is now evicted we have heard that there are other places being squatted in South London ...Let's see 121 duplicated all over the world. It has been an inspiration for many!

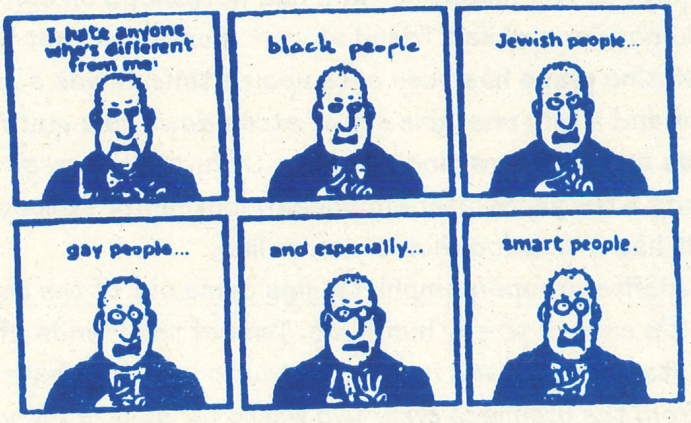
Gateavisa

A [redacted] 'zine in Oslo

Gateavisa was founded in 1970 by people connected with the "squatting movement", due to the (still ongoing) housing crisis in Oslo.

Gateavisa is an anarchistic, autonome, subcultural and almost independent (we receive governmental cultural-funding, due to the subcultural bit) newspaper/magazine. Gateavisa started as a badly photocopied pamphlet in Oslo. Within a few years it reached a nationwide audience, and recently Sweden and Denmark in some smaller extent.

The first pamphlets, called Oslo Gateavis, revolved around squatting and vacant buildings in Oslo. And through the last 30 years alternative housing, squatting, alternative living, alternative society and so on has been one of the main topics in Gateavisa. Now we only lease the land on which the 160 year old building, Hjelmsgate 3 stands. Hjelmsgate 3 is considered protected by the City Antiquarian (the smart squatters best friend), after City Hall for years tried to tear it down to widen the road. The red, wooden building stands halfway into Hjelmsgate like a pain in the ass.



"Green lung in the pavement"

Squeezed between the surrounding brick-housing projects, our house and its neighbouring kindergarden makes a somewhat green lung in the pavement. The only pestilence is our outdoor toilet, the Wantoslam. Since 1970 almost nothing has changed, Oslo is still plagued with an on-going and escalating housing crisis. In the so called inner city, buildings are being neglected, until they must be demolished and replaced with profitable commercial buildings, offices, malls etc.

In the whole of Oslo there are now only 3 (semi-)autonome buildings, and a small number of "snik-" squatters in abandoned government apartments. The first is Hjelmsgate 3, which contains; Gateavisa, Jaap von Huysmands minde (anarchist/socialist bookstore), Spisestedet (ecological-vegetarian restaurant, with kind prices), SON (ex-convicts interest organisation of Norway), NORMAL (Norwegian hemp liberation), Demokratisk Alternativ, (sort of green anarchists), FMK (peoples movement against war, possibly Norway's oldest pacifist organisation), Norsk Syndikalistisk Forbund IWA (anarcho-syndicalist printer).

The Blitz

Second there is the infamous Blitz, located in the early home of Edward Munch. The Blitz "movement", started in early 80s, squatted from 89-94, and now with an unreliable lease, contains Blitz (organizing punk concerts, parties, movieclubs and pickets, demonstrations and riots), Radio Rakel (alternative radio), and several practicing rooms for bands and other obscure activities.

And at last there is Krusesgate, still a squat with people living in it, with the highly profiled "Volapük" - (sub?)cultural centre (which organises poetry evenings and such), and also possibilities for bands to practice. Some actions, with roots in the Blitz movement, have been taken. The most successful might be the so called "Boligaksjonen 98", which escalated into the building of an "slum town" outside Stortinget (Norwegian parliament) last winter, with oilbarrel-fires and shacks and every thing and the intrusion into the office of the City Housing Council.

city hall

The city halls main goal is to push people into the suburbs, and pave the inner city with office buildings and stores. Old and decorative buildings are knowingly neglected, until they are beyond renovation, then replaced with horrible structures of stone and glass.

For information on the Blitz (the most riotous Norwegian squat ever try: antifa@riksnett.no

You should also contact the Boligaksjonen 2000 at: boligaksjonen@yahoo.no

In Trondheim we got Svartlamoen, a smaller part of the city, which I believe, is partially squatted. In Denmark we have got Ungdomshuset på Jagtvej 69.
Contact them at: ungdomshuset@hotmail.com
or: ungdomshuset@punk-ska.com

Letter from Squatter in Spain - July 99

I am writing by candle light at my bedroom window. under a skyful of stars and above a black forest rustling in the wind and echoing with the odd owl. Last week we were given a mini computer which is plugged and hooked to email. It works off the solar panels.

The bongo drums have started up - drowning out the owl. There are 18 of us here now. in 2 houses and a tree house. That includes a 10-month old girl and a 6-year-old boy.

Outside my other window is paddock where 4 yr old Josefina. a 300kg mare is imprisoned. Today I was training her with big baskets and weight. Next Thursday we have a collective workday digging potatoes and darling Josefina has to carry them 1km up the valley - thus banishing her reputation as a useless and stubborn if lovable beast. Then she's off to the Pyrenes for the summer to live free with a horse and 2 mares. and hopefully get pregnant.

Our anti McDonalds group is having a long siesta - while new outlets pop up everywhere - we're loosing. Coca Cola sales only fell a few percent in Spain after the latest poisoning scandal. and the anti- GM food campaign hasn't really taken off - there's a mad consumer boom on here. for those who have jobs and credit. The unions are sold out and marginalised. solidarity diverted to institutional campaigns ("We" give more than anyone to Kosovo) and rebellion to institutionalised fiestas and Football - you know the story.

On the other hand our first street party (18th June) was a great success. First. we demolished a wall and took over a derelict site where a squat centre had been evicted and demolished. transforming it into a community garden. We marched to the centre (more like danced) to meet up with another demonstration and block the main street (Gran Via). Then a long nervous wait. but the cops didn't intervene and the sound system arrived being towed by another van. it had broken down on the way. Lots of mad dancing at every intersection with a mass audience of angry hooting drivers. drive-in movie style - no arrests.

The squat movement is still booming as well - despite media blackouts and gradual criminalisation/ demonisation we still have lots of public support! Con P. is now 2-1/2 years old. We make bread. 100s of kilos in a big wood oven. and sell it locally and round the squat centres etc. with all profits to the food kitty etc. Some people live on that and do seasonal work - fruit picking etc. and a couple have more regular jobs.

Other occupants of the squat are 3 dogs. a cat. 5 kittens (going soon). 2 geese. a guinea fowl. one gosling adopted by a duck. 20 chickens. 3 little cocks and one chick. which has 2 aggressive mothers. plus ducks. and 2 pregnant goats. Life here is chaotic. with constant cafes. workshops. meetings and small conferences. tomorrow for example about 20 Europeans are arriving for a week. in the wake of the 18 June demonstrations in Germany.

Krusegate 7&9

CULTURALLY PRODUCTIVE

CONTRIBUTE

ART, CULTURE POLITICS.

Krusesgate 7&9 was squatted in the summer of 1989. Today it is the only illegal squat in Oslo and still the two "autonome" buildings that are the most likely to live on. I believe it is several reasons for it to be so.

1) Unlike Hjelmsgate 3 (which owns the building, but leases the land) and Blitz (which leases the whole bit), a private real estate company - Selvaag, owns Krusesgate 7&9. Krusesgate is located on the prominent westside, not the kind of place where one should expect a squat to be particularly popular with the neighbors. But Selvaags plan is to knock down the two 110 years old wooden sveitser-villas, and put up a concrete housing project. The Oslo middleclass would not stand for this, and during the 70s they collected 5000 signatures against these plans. 5000 signatures with money behind them - old money - and the City Hall was reluctant to let Selvaag have their way. And after all, if it is not governmental property - then why bother? And 'the man' Selvaag has got the time and money to wait. Meanwhile Oslo is being plagued by an escalating housing crisis - pushing property prices to an all time high.

2) The squat has been non-violent. No barricades. No fuzz. Just the way the Norwegian middleaged-middleclass likes it. Not attracting negative attention from either the neighbor or the City Hall. Volapuk, the alternative-cultural forum located in Krusesgate, attracts rather prominent Norwegian cultural personalities, making it "High Profile" and a bit unpleasant to evict or knock down.

"Culture" is very big in Norway (opium for the people); the word is so positively loaded that it is quite absurd. If you call it culture you can get away with almost anything, and probably get the government to pay for it.

One other "hot issue" is the conservation of architecture. The house being 110 years old was likely to be considered worthy of preservation by the City Antiquarian.

3) Unlike Hjelmsgate 3 and Blitz - which with their lease and rent agreements with the City Hall are prevented from having anyone living in them (at least not in a scale that would be noticeable by the government)- Krusesgate has got 12 - 14 people living in it. Thus making the squat able to maintain and renovate the buildings - which is one of the primary goals for the squat, while Hjelmsgate 3 and Blitz (which used to have people living in it from (89-94) are in worse shape.

The occupants of Krusesgate believe the number of people now living in it to be the most desirable. The Allmoete (meeting for all, open meeting) decides who is to live there, and everything concerning the buildings. The rooms are large, as these houses were built for the 18th century

cont.

Squatter stories...

as an illegal alien without benefits from social security or any other welfare, quite often i find myself in situations where i'm left without any income - sometimes for weeks. in such times the last thing i want to break my head with are issues like rent and gas or electricity bills. so, living in a squat makes things easier. during my stay in the last couple of squats, i've learnt more than before, that in social matters, squatting is no different than renting. the respect of others living space is certainly the most important criteria to consider - may it be a place where people come in and out just to crash out overnight, or a house chosen by a group of people as their home. i made the experience that usually 'overnight' houses are left in very poor condition, where there is a large number of individuals using the facilities ie for shooting up, sex-quickies or other reasons. people's attitude (and i have to admit mine too, until recently) is that the place is only good enough as long as they use the facilities. why should i tidy up the mess when tomorrow i won't be here anymore?

consideration of other ppl is the main reason for it, and shouldn't be explained to adults furthermore. another answer would be the house owner. we all know that squatters are identities as different from each other as leaves growing on trees. but try explaining this to a houseowner who sees his property infested with faecalia and blood smeared on the walls next to swastikas...

as unrealistic as it might sound, in the black and white, 9-5 life of the white-trash majority, there are a few houseowners who don't mind ppl living in their (temporarily?) empty houses, as long as those ppl keep their homes in reasonable condition.

in my case, where ever i find myself, i'll probably always consider squatting before renting 'cause it's not only cheap, it's a good way to get to know interesting personalities.

bourgeois society. The building was considered protected by the City Hall in 1990, but the occupants of City Hall and Selvaag are constantly lobbying the politicians to let him erect his housing projects. Selvaag is said to be on the prowl again, but one is awaiting his next move without too much fear.

I am not quite sure if it is really illegal to squat a building here in Norway. But I guess the owner must tell the police if they want to get you out. If you squat a governmental/communal building you are automatically charged with trespassing and sure to get beaten up by the police if you do not leave when they tell you to. Then they charge you for violence against the police.

To prevent you from returning the next day, they smash all the windows, remove the plumbing and the electricals. The problem (or solution) is when the Antiquarian protects the building, and then they are not allowed to do this. And then the occupants can return, thus the police is not so eager to throw them out. It is just a waste of time for them. Hjelmsgate 3, which is owned by the Arbeidskollektivet (the next generation, or possibly the 4th), are able to get large maintenance projects partially funded by the antiquarian. The antiquarians are used to having to fight the owners, who usually want to knock down the old building and replace it with a new one.

Another fresh initiative is "Brakkebygrenda". A parking lot on Oslo's lower east side, squatted by punks with camping wagons. This is supposed to be Norway's first Wagonburg - though it looks more like a white-trash trailerpark. The 4 -next generation Blitz punks- with their 3 camping wagons, have located themselves right in the middle of Oslo City Halls next great tourist attraction. They originally placed themselves on Loenga - next to Clements kirka (church of St. Clements - possibly the first to ever be built in Oslo during the christening of the land), or rather the ruins of it, or actually the sad remains of the ruins. After being told by the police to move, they did. 10 meters. After keeping this up for two months - their homes got towed by the police/City Hall. After cashing-out their wagons - they went back to a parking space near by, close to another ruin - Maria kirka (church of St.Mary). Here they are sheltered from the tourists or the tourists from them, so the City Hall do not seem to eager to harass them - yet. They have also started a "Folkekjoeken" (peoples kitchen), which each Sunday offers cheap mostly vegetarian food.

FINI.

INSERT INFORMATION

LOUNGE

PARTICIPATE

EXPERIMENT

Hi Boys and Grrls!

Do any of your friends deserve this special certificate?

TO CUT:

Just follow the dotted lines with your scissors.

Won't your friends be thrilled!

Certified Bad Attitude

IS HEREBY CERTIFIED AS HAVING A BAD ATTITUDE:

- *For the relentless theft of time from employers...*
- *For refusing to Dress For Success...*
- *For having better things to do than work...*
- *For retaining creative energy in the face of overwhelming opposition...*
- *For having a perpetually mistrustful relationship with all forms of authority...*

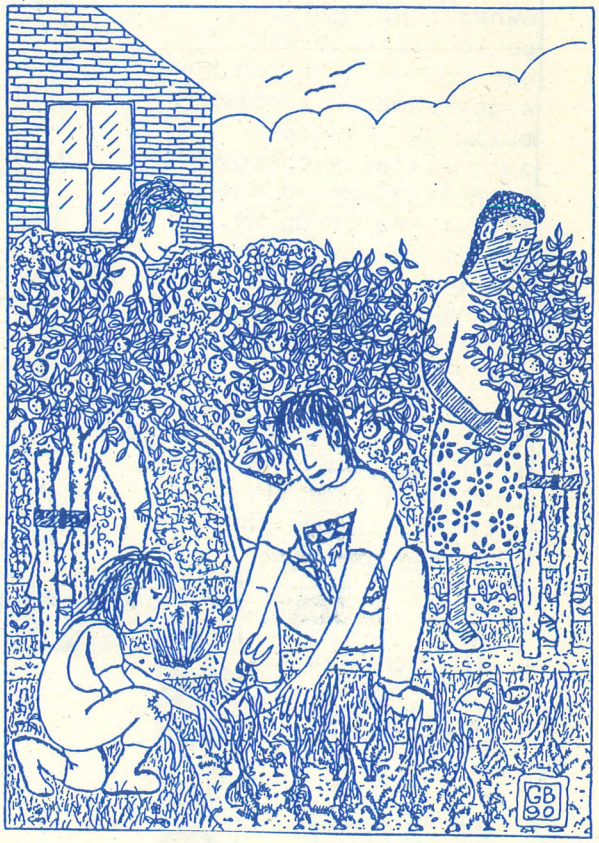
For these and countless other types of subversive behavior, the bearer of this certificate is entitled to solidarity in the form of active and moral support from all other certificate holders, and thousands of others, all indefatigably undermining the present global "order."

how does your garden grow?

Now, can someone please explain ... the government and big businesses are putting millions and millions of dollars into supporting genetic engineering research & development and very very little towards supporting the organics industry.

Are they concerned about our health? Are they concerned about the long term effects that their actions will cause to the earth and to people's lives?

I know what I prefer. Organic Food. Not mass produced, chemically induced and genetically modified thank you very much. It seems like there's a whole lot of other people who also feel the same way. But sometimes you don't have a choice. Sometimes you don't have enough money so another way is to grow your own stuff.



Here's how to do it:

The Box Garden

- Grab a polystyrene box or two (punch some holes for drainage).
- Soak some newspaper in water thoroughly and put shredded layers on the base (about 10-15 pages thick is fine).
- If you've got grass clippings throw in a couple of handfuls next. Straw or lucerne also add nitrogen.
- Fill the rest with compost and/or garden soil or potting mix.
- Put in some seedlings and water well.

The Tyre Garden

As above, but with this type of garden, you can stack up the tyres to make quite a tall and deep space to grow things. Especially good for potatoes (as soon as leaves come up, you put more mulch on and so they grow) and corn (they do well in deep soils).

The easiest vegetables

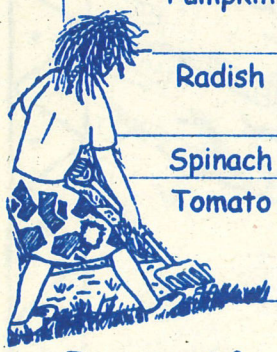
The easiest veg to grow is probably silverbeet: plant it in spring, then eat it all year. It's closely followed by pumpkin, tomato, lettuce and spring onions. Beans are great for the soil as well as tasting pretty fine too and potatoes require very minimal work.

Herbs are so simple to grow, and much cheaper than buying in the shops and much tastier than dried stuff.

Green Harvest put out an Australian Organic Gardening Resource Guide and it's free. It's got information on herbs and flowers, pest repellent plants, soil improvement and more. To get the guide sent to you, you can freecall 1800 681 014 or email greenhar@ozemail.com.au

Companion Plants

Plant	Beneficial to:	Antagonistic to:
Basil	Most plants, esp. tomato	Rue
Beans & Peas (are nitrogen-fixers)	Borage, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, cucumber, corn, marigold, squash, strawberry, tomato	chives, fennel, garlic, leek
Broccoli	bean, celery, chamomile, dill, mint, nasturtium, onion, potato, sage, rosemary	lettuce, strawberry, tomato
Carrot	Bean, chives, leek, onion, pea, lettuce, sage, tomato, wormwood	Dill, rosemary, radish
Corn	Parsnip, bean, cucumber, pumpkin, squash	.....
Cucumber	Bean, broccoli, carrot, lettuce, pea, radish, tomato	Rue, Sage
Leeks	Carrots, strawberries, onions	Broccoli
Lettuce	Cucumber, carrot, radish, strawberries	Broccoli
Onion	Beet, carrot, chamomile, corn, lettuce, potato, strawberries, tomato	Bean, pea, cucumber, dill, tomato, pumpkin, squash
Pea	Carrot, corn, cucumber, lettuce, radish, spinach, tomato	Onions, garlic, shallots
Potato	Corn, lettuce, onions, peas, petunia, marigold, radish, cannabis, summer savory	Apple, pumpkin, tomato sunflowers, rasberries
Pumpkin	Bean, corn, mint, nasturtium, radish, marjoram	Potato
Radish	Bean, cucumber, lettuce, parsley, peas	Grape, Hyssop, Squash, Spinach
Spinach	Onion, pea, strawberry	Cauliflower
Tomato	Basil, beans, marigolds, nasturtiums, onion, parsley, pea, sage, dandelions	Carrot, Chives, fennel, potato, wormwood, all brassicas



For more info you can check out

http://www.hitech.net.au/utegrrl/table.htm comprehensive guide to companion planting

http://www.users.interport.net/~ggnyc/Pages/Welcome.html the green guerillas have been going since 1973 when a group of people cleared & reclaimed a vacant rubble-strewn lot on New Yorks Lower East Side.

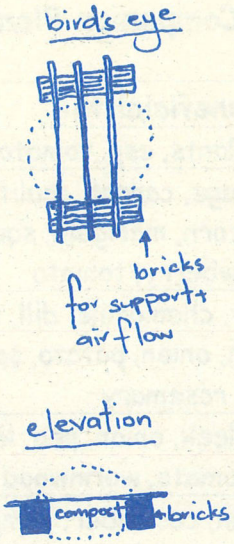
http://www.netspace.net.au/~atkinson/links.htm links to organics, self-sufficiency & companion planting

http://www.ozemail.com.au/~vego/organics1.html covers composting, mulching & soils .. well written

http://www.scs.leeds.ac.uk/pfaf/vegorg.html a great guide to growing .. lots of info .. produced by VOHAN (Vegan Organic horticulture and Agriculture Network) in the UK.

Quick Composting

The continuing cycle of returning organic matter to our soils is a crucial key to a sustainable future. The aim of composting is to establish nutrient rich organic matter in the soil, in a form that can be used and enjoyed by our vegetables, fruit trees etc. Within a well made compost heap an extraordinary array of chemical and biological processes will break down organic matter into humus, which will provide a complete diet for plants. The following ingredients should provide us with nutrient rich compost, with a balance of nitrogen and carbon elements (very important).



Fruit and veggie scraps (high in nitrogen)
Green grass clippings (high in nitrogen while still fresh)
Straw (carbon)
Wood ash (avoid painted of treated wood)
Animal manure
Hair and menstrual blood
It's also good to piss in your compost as often as you like.

Seek to balance the elements.
Earth - all organic matter mentioned and a few handfuls of good soil if available to establish more micro-organic life.
Fire - the decomposition of high nitrogen ingredients such as fresh green stuff will generate considerable heat, which provides a climate for heat loving organisms to carry out the important work of decomposition. Moistness and greenness are good to get your heap cooking.
Water - thoroughly wetting the compost helps to produce hot, fast compost by providing the right climate fir microbes and the right conditions for beneficial chemical processes. It may dry out in hot weather, so water it. Always start with a watered heap, but if conditions are cold and damp too much water will put out the "fire".
Air - good aeration provides a suitable climate for necessary aerobic bacteria. Non-aerobic heaps (non-aerated, not the ones without leotards) will be sticky, rank and take ages.

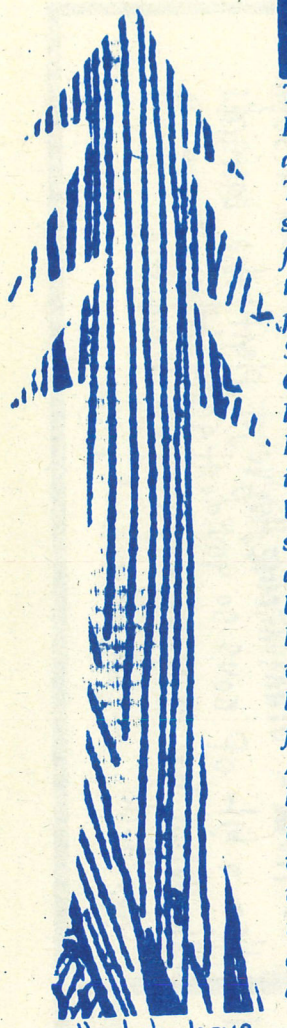
Process
Gather ingredients. It's great to have them all ready to go at once, so the compost is all broken down when going into the soil. Uncomposted material may create heat detrimental to plants if pit straight onto the garden. Break it all up with a hoe (or your boot) to speed up the breaking down process.

Dig up a piece of grass in a sunny spot. Expose the soil, but don't go any deeper than that. Add ingredients, thoroughly mixing them all and saturating with water as you go.
Cover the heap with straw, grass or old carpet so that warmth can get in, but not sunlight which earthworms shun.
Mixing the right ingredients when making the heap is one way of aerating the heap to begin with. The heap can be turned as often as every second day for very fast compost. A crowbar plunged into the heap will also create access for air.
For large heaps air tunnels can be built at the base before you start by putting branches and robust shrubbery on the bottom to trap air. Build the heap on top and leave the ends of the branches exposed.

Don't add anything new for 2-3 weeks before using the compost in the soil. 3-6 months may be required before the optimum result of dark brown, odourless, worm-ridden compostcake is achieved.

These are useful principles to use in composition, but there are many methods specific to different circumstances, dependant on what resources are available. So, just get it going and I'm sure it will all rot nicely!

squatter stories...



The Enclosed Land Act is often bought into use when there is a dispute over the logging of state forest. Basically this means it is illegal (selectively so, depending on your ideology and dress code) to be in a large area of supposed public forest around a logging operation.

The outcome of this law is long, arduous walks through the bush to the compartment being logged and squatting an area to camp in. As a whole lot of old growth was once again being trashed we scouted around for a suitable place to base ourselves. There is a rarely enacted law where they can't log in a compartment if there are ppl nearby. We figured if they knew we were in the area, but couldn't find us, there was a possibility we could temporarily stop the logging.

Someone found one of the loggers disused dope patches close to some of the largest trees in an area the local Gumbadjeri had estimated to be 2000 years old. We set up house there and ran around playing cops and loggers for about a week before being rudely awoken one morning by Sgt. Plod (whose real name was Sgt. Ronald McDonald!), an assortment of cops, some forestry commission suits with cameras, loggers and the ironically named Rescue Squad.

We were forced to move our stuff out of the area and an hour later heard the sound of chainsaws and the smash of trees hitting the ground. We immediately ran to the area and the cops made a vague attempt to get their flabby butts into gear to catch us. In typical fashion they continued logging, nearly killing a couple of us. Illegal logging, close to waterways, with ppl obviously in the area, aided and abetted by a dozen cops is totally acceptable, but it was deemed illegal for us to camp in State Forest.

After many negotiations, arrests, general shitfighting and lobbying on various levels, a small area - including the largest trees - was begrudgingly preserved. Two years later when I visited the area, I found a public propaganda piece. The track we had worn to the large trees and the dope patch, had been made into a tourist trail with big raves at the base of the trees about how such areas are always preserved due to their ecological significance!!

DID YOU HEAR THE STORY ABOUT THE GUY WHO GREW MARIJUANA PLANTS OUTSIDE THE TOWN HALL?

if you find yourself in a squat without a backyard at all, another option is guerilla gardening. as you explore the area around you for skips, demolition sites and the like, look about for out of the way or little used spots; railway embankments, back gardens, golf courses, car parks, vacant blocks etc. think *clandestine cultivation*. with a bit of cunning and stealth, herbs and vegetables can be sewn among the undergrowth, right in the heart of the consumerist landscape. supermarkets and chain stores could provide you with free food after all, and renegade greenery will start to appear in unexpected places.

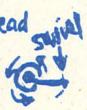
there are already people in melbourne planting and tending their crops around the city in guerilla garden plots, so if you come across someone else's vege's, give them some water and go find somewhere else.

D.I.Y.

(you know how bicycles sometimes power their own lights with a dynamo? Well keep that in mind as we explore this fabulous new.....)

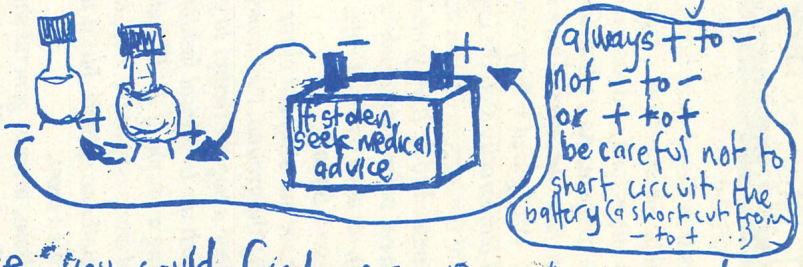
sustainable power source (almost)

MATERIALS

1. find or scam a few car batteries. fully charged batteries from expensive automobiles are ideal.
2. Do same with some bicycle dynamo generator type thingies, which look a bit like this - or this  they are usually about 6 volts so you'll need two of them to make 12 Volts for the batteries.
3. Find general bike bits like wheels, wires, chains etc, will be needed depending on your design (my design is only operational in my head - you're the test pilot)

METHOD

- the tricky bits are the actual wind mill itself and the wiring. the bigger the mill, the faster you can run the dynamos, which means more voltage. unfortunately, it's hard to get that much wind for any period of time to charge up so study different designs for best efficiency in your area. there are a few at CERES to have a look at. alternatively you could kidnap a politician or a cop or something and put them to good use on an exercise bike charging up your batteries. (Macca's power!)
- you need to think about gearing & leverage and all that jazz because the further from the centre of the wheel you put the dynamo, the faster it will go - but also more wind required to set it in motion. If you want to get really tricky, you can make an automatic gearing system to maximise efficiency - No explanations here, sorry - you work it out.
- the important thing is, once you've done the mill and dynamo's or cop on bike or whatever, there are two dynamo's. to charge a 12 Volt battery, the voltage must exceed its current voltage. (no pun intended) It helps to have a volt meter for this, but not essential. basically, the dynamo's should be going pretty fast, like down hill on your malvern star. not flat-out, but fast (the faster the better, though)
- then wire them in series, which adds their voltage: like this



- of course, you could find yer self a charger and use some ones power outlet. best to have a few to alternate so they never get quite flat 'cos a flat car battery will never really fully recover. or pinch a solar panel from a Uranium mine, they've got plenty the bastards. Use a bit of nous so you don't get a shock. Sorry so little detail but no room - experiment, have fun.

Good luck. - continued next page...

HUMPS

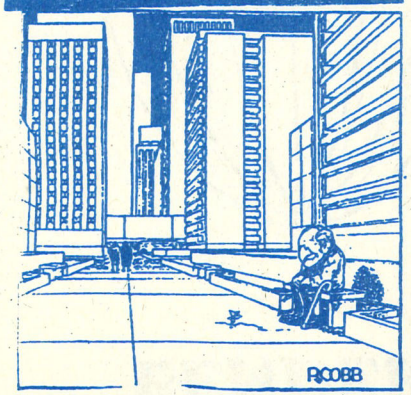
HUMPS NOT DUMPS

NOT

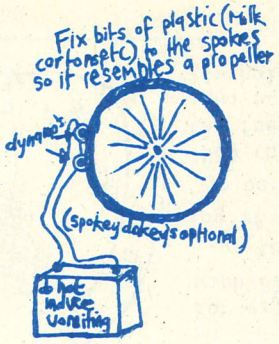
CAMEL CRUSADERS

DUMPS

www.green.net.au/humpsnotdumps



D.I.Y. POWER SOURCE continued...


Fix bits of plastic (milk carton etc) to the spokes so it resembles a propeller
dynamo
(spokey dokey's optional)
to help relieve vomiting

Rig it up with a tail and put it on a swivel so it follows the wind (I didn't say this would be easy.) It would help to have a welder, I suppose. Maybe you could find an old original farm style windmill →

go - do it

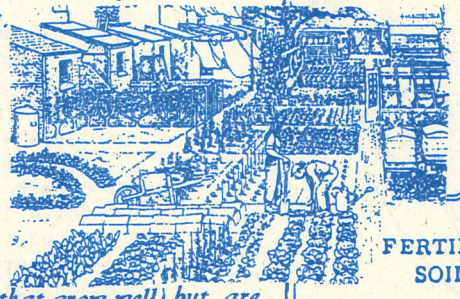
WHEN YOU SQUAT, YOU SQUAT THE LAND. HOW ARE GOING TO UTILISE IT? WHAT WILL YOU GIVE IT IN RETURN FOR SUPPORTING YOU? chemical sprays? poison? toxic waste? industrial by-products?

Any place that looks as if it may last longer than 6 mths means that a vegie patch will yield a return. Any work you do in the front garden, in terms of pruning bushes or planting flowers or vegies in the borders will give the house a lived in look.

Stuff can be planted in your vegie patch, or small patches around the place all year round. All the ones I list below can be grown by complete amateurs, a fuller list and more ideas can be got at the local library, look for an aussie book that will give planting times for different parts of the country. Those below are for Victoria.

Broad Beans: May-July
Carrots: August-December
Potatoes: September-December
Silverbeet: September-January
Sweetcorn: October-December

There's other vegies (such as brocolli that grow well) but are more affected by snails, its best to stay organic and try to get hold of wood shavings to put round the plant to deter them rather than get pellets to poisen them.
All this can be done with a spade or fork and a trowel.



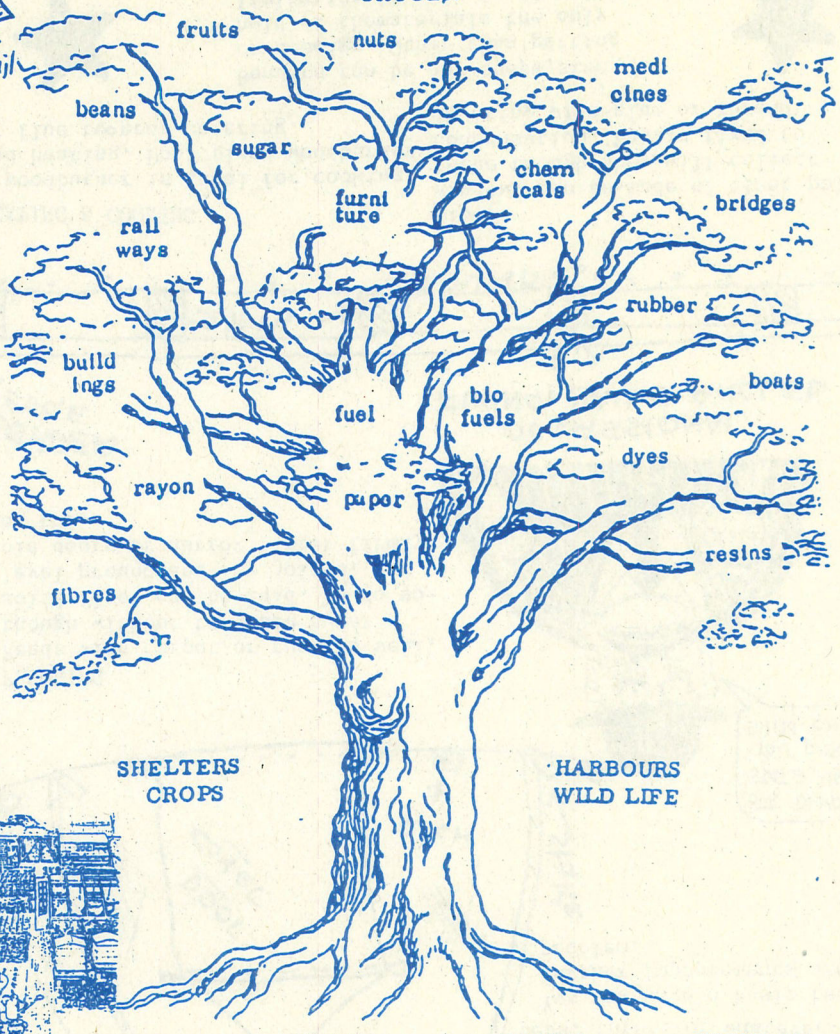
A TREE:-

TAKES IN CO2

TRANSPIRES WATER TO CLOUDS

GIVES OUT OXYGEN

FOREST HEIGHT PROMOTES RAIN



SHELTERS CROPS

HARBOURS WILD LIFE

FERTILISES SOIL

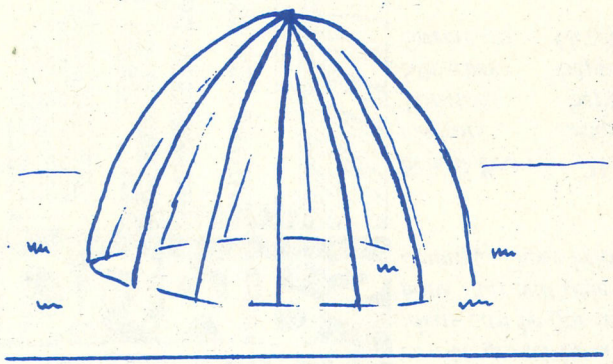
CHECKS EROSION

DRAINS SWAMPS

SUCKS UP MINERALS

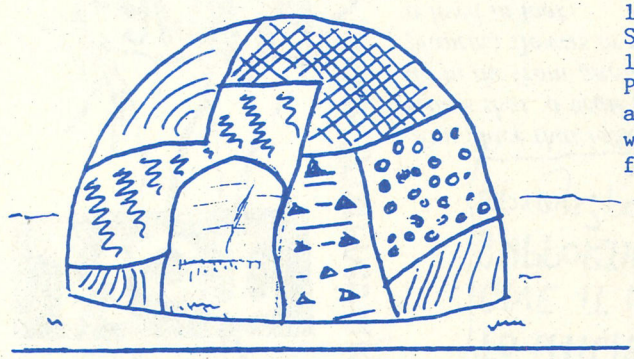
SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON RESTORING FORESTS.

BENDERS



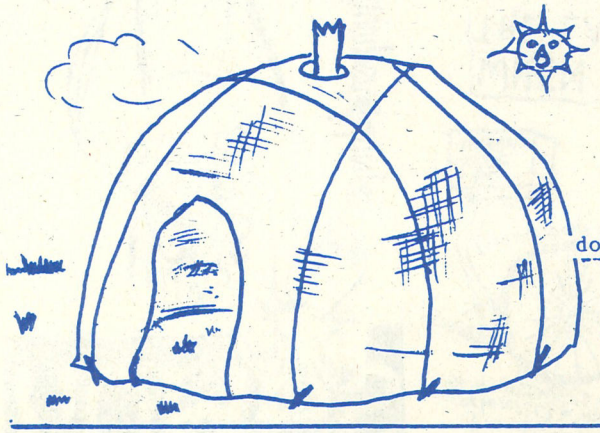
Out of all canvas and tarp structures featured, none are as cheap or as easy to errect as the bender. Benders have been used by travellers for generations and nowadays this semi-permenant structure is commonly seen at peace camps, festival sites, and other gatherings where quick and simple shelter is needed.

The design shown here is basic and simple, for further ideas use your noddle.



Collect bendy poles about 1-2 inches dia. Willow is ideal though hazel or ash will do. Cut to required length (allowing for over-lap) and make smooth. Stick poles into ground at least 6 inches deep. Poles should be placed approx 18-24 inches apart, with a larger space left for door opening.

Join poles at the top and tie together with string. Tie surplus lengths of poles onto opposite member. Weave thinner poles in and out of uprights, leaving openings foor door and windows. Windows can be made from clear polythene.

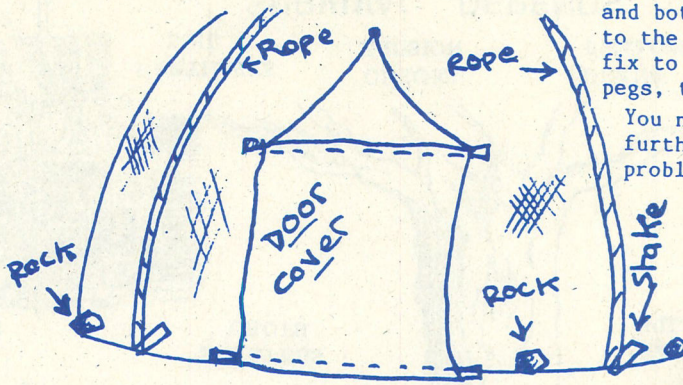


For extra insulation cover with blankets and sow together ....this is only worth doing if the bender is gping to be left for a time.

Now throw your tarpalin over the frame. Tie down with ropes and stakes, using heavy rocks to hold bottom edge. For a door cover, cut material wider than the opening, and weigh top and bottom with wood. Tie string to the top of the cover then fix to structure with clips, pegs, thread or whatever.

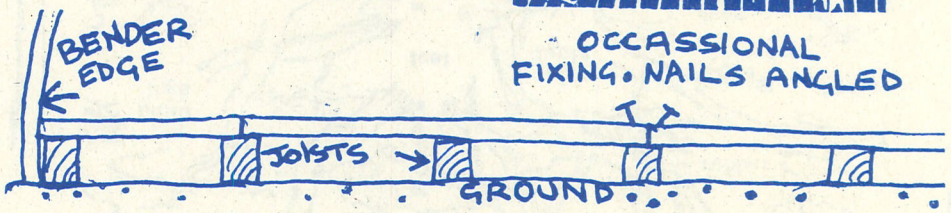
You now have a basic bender, further improvements are no problem.

Your squat needn't be a house in the burbs... how about a nice spot riverside? If you construct your own shelter, you can take it with you when the coppers arrive to give you the boot!



FLOORING

Reeds with carpet or rugs do well, though without too much sweat a solid floor can be laid. To do so- level ground and lay joists, fix old doors or narrow timber firmly on top.



HEATING & COOKING

A woodburner is ideal for cooking and heating. Dont place woodburner or flue toonear covering.

LIGHT

Windows can be made of clear poly-thene though they will collect condensation. Easily fixed to covering with glue or thread.

Benders can be any shape, size or design. Other than getting hold of thematerials the only limitation is your imagination. Benders have been built on the back of trucks, bus chassis, barges, and boats...Take it from here.

Local homes - survival edition.

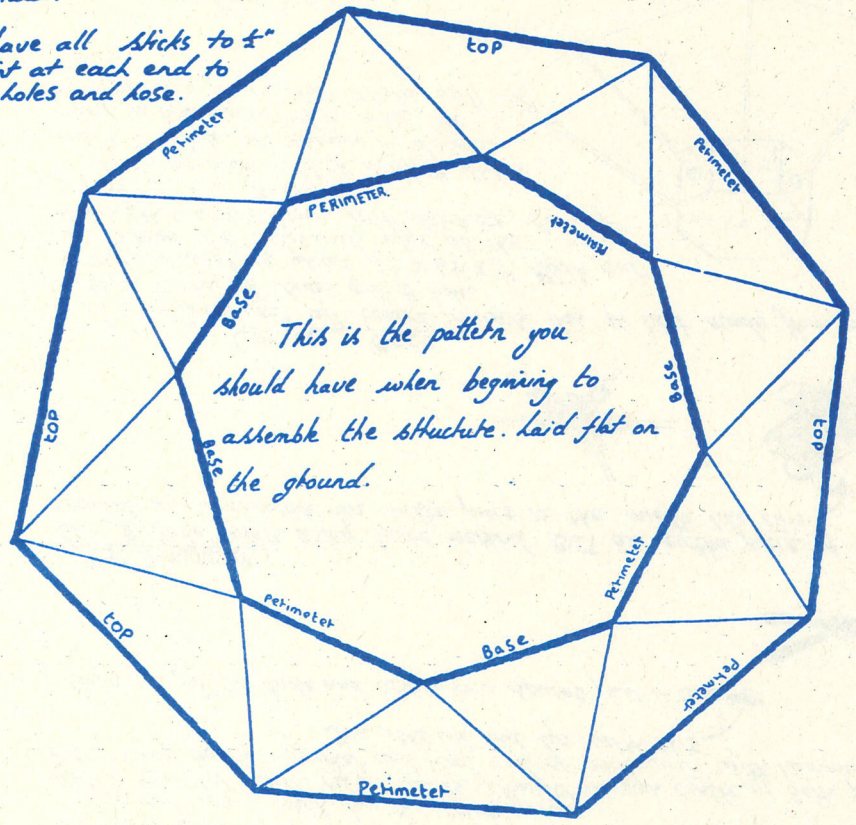
...THE YERT...(or dome)

For this structure you will need 40 thee sticks 6ft long + ¾ inch in thickness. Each stick should be pretty straight (but it's not that important)

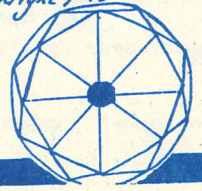
1st. Stage:-
The first 8 sticks make up the base and the next 16 the sides, all these sticks are the same length.

2nd Stage:-
Stand each individual triangle upright (this is easier with two other people) You now need a further 8 sticks 4FT LONG they make up the top perimeter.

Shave all sticks to a ¼" point at each end to fit holes and hose.

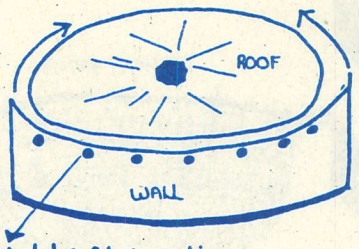


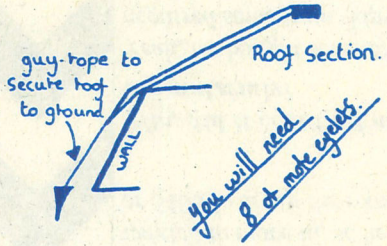
3rd stage. You will now need a further 8 sticks 6ft in length, to join the top perimeter (after it has been stood upright) to the centre block. This is what it should look like from above→



I hope this all makes sense!

The roof section is secured to the ground by a number of guy ropes. Give yourself plenty of width for the walls to allow for tucking under the base perimeter sticks.





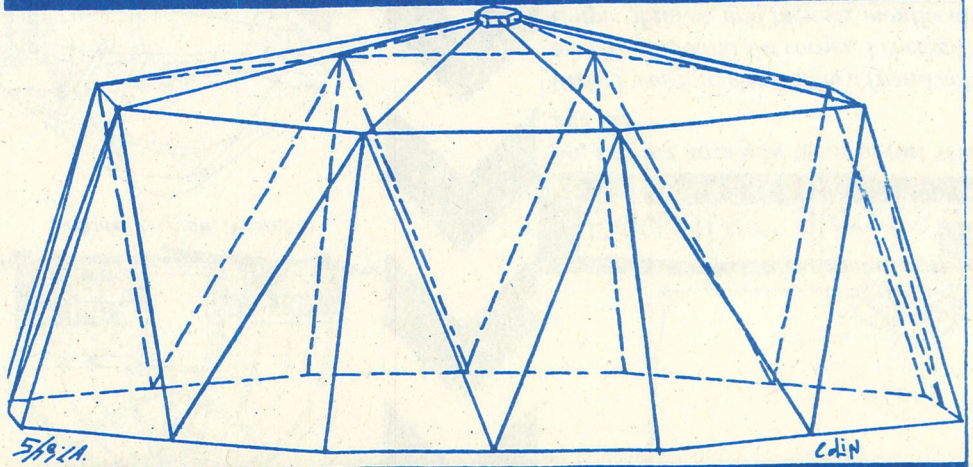
THE YERT is ideal for withstanding strong winds because of it's shape. Using thee sticks helps combat the effects of the wind as they bend and do not snap.
Once constructed it is very simple to put up and take down, It will accomadate up to 13 people comfortably

If you wish to do so further rooms can be added by putting up a 'two person' tent with the opening in front of one of the wall triangles.

Hints:
There are three different sized sticks these should be marked with paint to signify which size is which.

For a light screw a hook into the centre block for hanging a Tilly Lamp, which also gives off heat ..... but mind 'yer head .....

ideal home - survival edition.



5/9/11.

COLIN

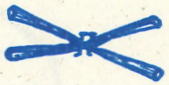
You may be wondering how to connect these sticks! well what you need are a number of 'Joints' !!!

These are made from common garden hose, that is hose with ½" hole inside for the sticks to slot into. you will need approx. 15ft.

Joints to connect Base Perimeter Sticks

Cut two pieces of hose 4" long
Lay one on a bench, lay the other on top.
Staple together with two 1" nails, straight through centre of both pieces.
Pinch hose tightly together and bend end of nails over with hammer
You should end up with this.

Make 8 for the base and also a few spares just in case

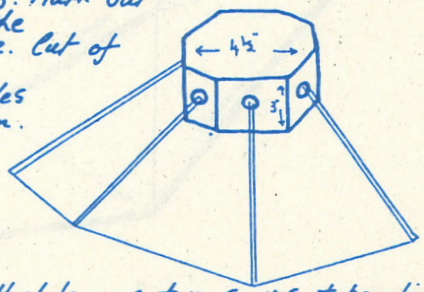


TOP PERIMETER

Cut 8 hose joints using same method BUT an extra piece of hose is needed, so sandwich an extra piece in the middle like this.

Centre Block.

This is to connect all centre sticks. This is best made from a hard wood eg. OAK. It has 8 sides and 8 holes.
Take a block of wood 4½"x4½"x3". Mark out an octagon (8 sides) as large as the dimensions of the block will tolerate. Cut of waste with a saw.
You now have a block with 8 sides mark 8 holes as shown in diagram. Take a brace'n bit drill holes at approximate angle that sticks will enter.

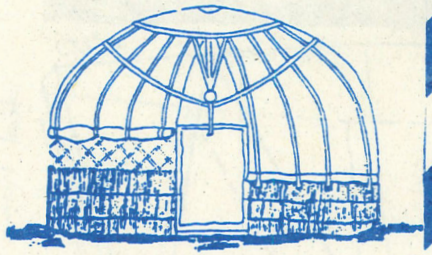


Covering.

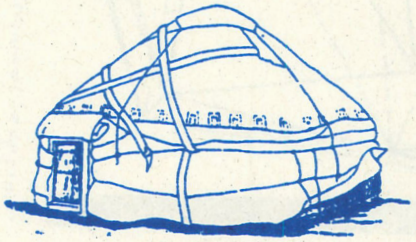
The first covering used on this structure was two canvas tarpaulins, wrapped around the sides and draped over the top. As an alternative a tailored covering is far more practical especially when wanting to put up the yurt quickly. The tailored version is in two parts roof and wall.
The wall can be made from P.V.C or plastic, but the roof must be made from canvas so it can breath.

Securing whole structure.

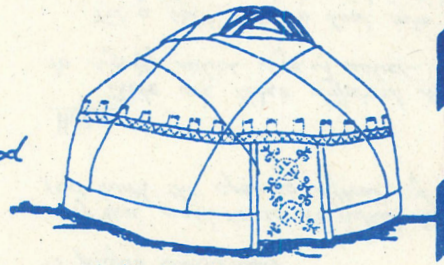
Fit eyelets to top of wall covering for connecting with string to top perimeter sticks.
Secure base sticks to ground with crooked pegs.



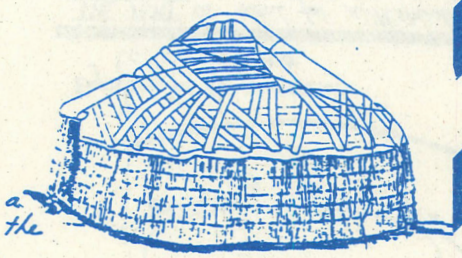
Turkmen (Afyon, Anatolia)



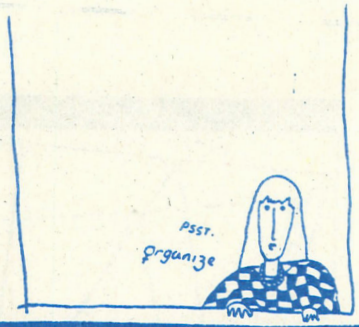
Kazakh



Kirghiz (Southern Kirghizistan)



Uzbek (Karluk)



squatter stories...

So, tell me how you went about setting up xyz st?

Well, I was told about it by a friend actually, who lived around the corner. I checked it out a couple of times, and then six months after I learnt about it I got together with ppl and was looking for a place. I'd already been in the window and had a look around and thought it was a go. We got hold of a lock, climbed in the window, changed the lock on the front door and sat there for a couple of days. We went in and out of the front door, got seen by the neighbours deliberately, 'cause we didn't want to be sort of hiding away. Nothing happened. So we got the electricity and phone, it had just been disconnected, so we rang up, the usual thing. We got a couple of windows fixed up, the ceiling, the whole inside cleaned up, front and back yards tidied. One of the rooms had been stripped of plasterboard and about six months after we'd been living there someone wanted to move in, so he invested about $300 or $400 to do up the room inside.

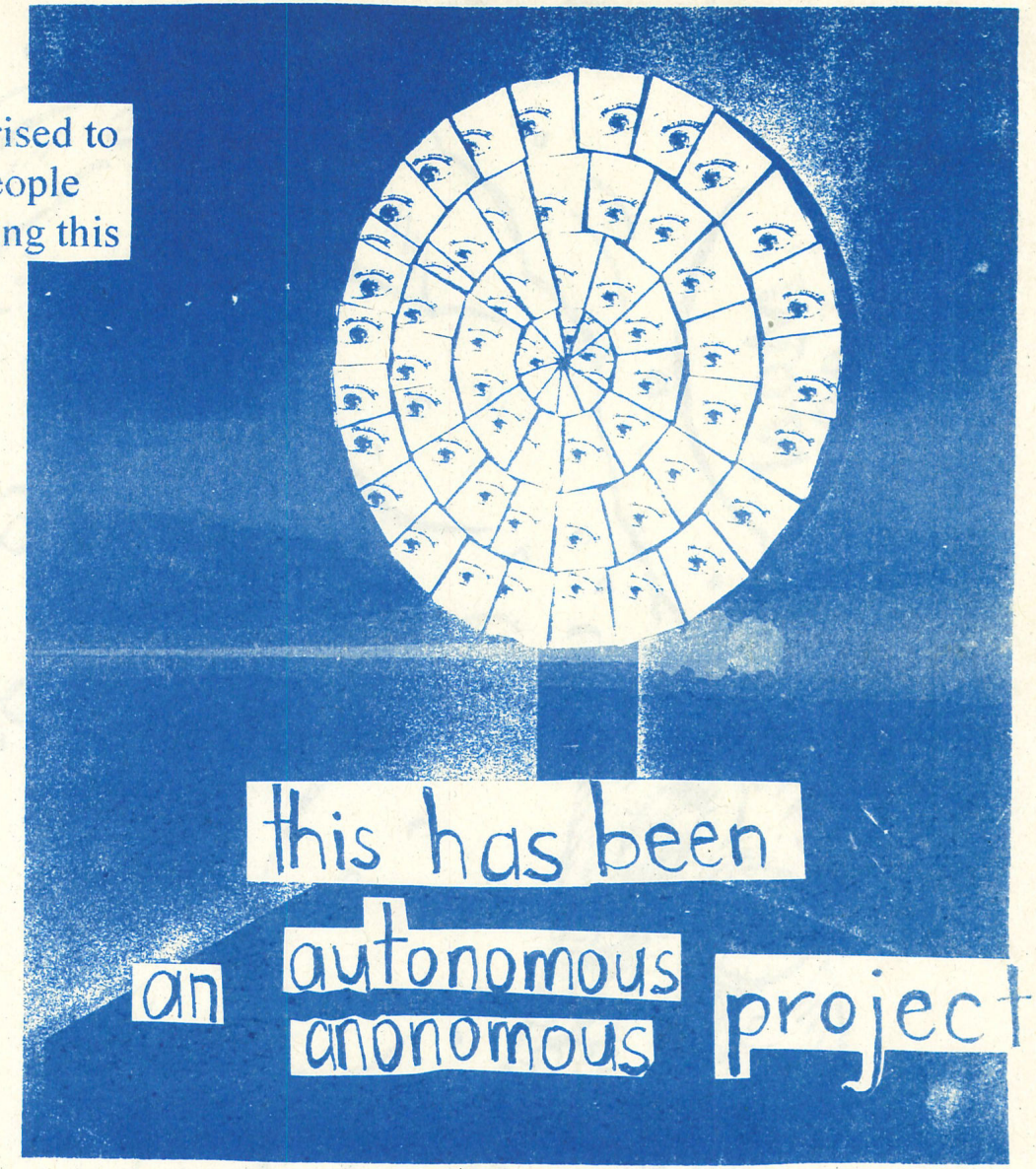
Why did it cost that much, did you buy the materials?

Yeah, we bought some of the materials. We acquired some from skips and that. Probably if we'd bought it all new it would have cost twice that much. It took us a month or so to do it up and he's still there so it was worth it.

The nature of this publication is anonomous. No individual or organisation lays claim to the ideas on these pages. Intellectual property rights are based on the commodification of ideas.

You won't be surprised to learn that lots of people contributed to putting this 'zine together. some knowingly

The nature of this publication is autonomous. Lo-fi+DIY. It wouldnt have been possible without the work and support of an interesting assortment of characters. It has been published from the spare room in a little squat in Melbourne with no electricity (by choice), using borrowed, stolen, recycled, scammed equipment. Friends computers (at their places), 3 pens, some PVA, ruler, pencil, scissors, eraser, white out, paper.
$ for printing came from a benefit gig held years ago @ the brown warehouse and any other expenses were easily incorporated into my rent-free lifestyle.



THIS IS IT BABEE. RIGHT NOW. YOU ARE THE REVOLUTION. YOUR LIFE. THIS TIME. EVERYDAY. THE DECISIONS YOU MAKE. THE WAY YOU MAKE THEM.

OUT NOW!
MUM
SQUAT